

HOW TO START PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

Supplies

- ✓ Plastic shoe storage box 15x24 in by 12 in deep with a tight fitting lid
- ✓ Drill and 3/8 in drill bit
- ✓ Rooting hormone
- ✓ Rooting medium (1 part milled peat moss and 2 parts perlite).
Many rooting mediums are available. Whatever you use, it should have a capacity to hold some moisture but be well aerated and able to drain.
- ✓ Plastic bags (grocery bags, etc)



1. Drill several 3/8" holes in the bottom of the plastic tub.
 - ▶ Fill the plastic tub with about 6 inches of rooting medium.

2. Take softwood cuttings in late spring or summer.
 - ▶ Cuttings should be about 6 inches long.
 - ▶ Keep the cuttings moist in a plastic bag with sphagnum moss.
 - ▶ Cuttings should be from the current year's growth and be green but not "floppy."



3. Before planting a cutting, the bottom should be trimmed with a fresh cut just below a leaf node.
 - ▶ Trim all but a couple of the top leaves from the cutting (now 4 inches).
 - ▶ Dip the bottom 2 inches of the cutting into the rooting hormone and then into the rooting medium in the tub.
 - ▶ Be sure the rooting medium is pressed firmly around the cutting.
 - ▶ Place the lid on the tub and place it in a shady spot outdoors.

4. Check frequently to make sure mildew is not developing from the moist climate in the tub. If it is, pop open the top slightly to let a little more air in. Make sure there is still plenty of moisture in the tub.

5. Cuttings should be ready to be planted in containers in about 4 weeks.



Original text by James Smith, Wild Ones partner at large from Georgia.