

Santa Cruz Transition Reskilling Workshop
October 2009
Plant Propagation

Rooting Mediums

Herbaceous Cuttings

Potting soil, perlite
Peat, perlite, vermiculite
Potting soil, sand
Potting soil, vermiculite, coarse sand

Semi-Hardwood-Stem Cuttings

Perlite, peat moss
Perlite, vermiculite

~Ideally, rooting medium will be sterile, low in fertility, and have good drainage to provide oxygen to developing roots yet will retain water so as not to cause water stress.

Natural Rooting Hormones

1. Collect a handful of willow twigs (all *Salix* species produce natural rooting hormone)
2. Cut into 2-4 inch pieces into bowl
3. Transfer willow cuttings to a large kettle or pot and fill with water so that all cuttings are covered with water. Put on low heat for 2 hours, covered, until water turns dark brown
4. Let mixture sit and cool for 12 hours, covered
5. Strain out sticks and pour tea into a sealable glass jar or plastic container and store in fridge for up to 2 months. Mixture may be frozen for up to a year.
6. Use the willow tea to soak cuttings in (for 12-24 hours), water newly started cuttings, or to give a boost to transplants.

Rooting Containers

Plant Pot covered with a plastic bag and tie. Can also put a 2 inch diameter terracotta pot in the middle of a large 6 inch pot. Stop up drainage hole with putty, fill with water, and place in the center of pot that is filled with rooting medium.

Terrarium –on a layer of pea gravel, put 3- 4 inches of moistened rooting medium. May put trays filled with medium on top of the pea gravel. Cover with glass or plastic.

Cold frame- Choose a cover such as an old window. Make sure it is light enough to lift easily. A width of 2-1/2 – to 3 feet is ideal. Build frame out of scrap material or redwood to fit the dimensions of the window. The frame slopes from about 1-1/2 feet in the back to one foot high in the front. Use galvanized steel hinges to attach the cover to the frame and apply weather stripping around the top edges of the box. Allow for proper ventilation.

Propagation Methods for Perennial Vegetables and Herbs

Cuttings

Stem

Avocado
Catnip
Chamomile
Echinacea
Hibiscus
Hyssop
Jasmine
Lavender
Lemon balm
Lemon verbena
Mint
Oregano
Pelargonium (scented geraniums)
Pomegranate
Rosemary
Sage
St. John's Wort
Stevia
Tarragon
Willow

Leaf

Begonias
Sanseveria (mother-in-law's
tongue)
Succulents

Root

California Poppies
Ginger
Horseradish
Pelargoniums

Division

African daisy
Artichoke Aloe
Asparagus
Catnip
Chives
Day lily
Echinacea
Garlic
Horseradish
Lamb's ears
Lemongrass
Mint
Onion
Oregano
Passion Flower
Potato
Rhubarb
Sage
St. John's Wort
Strawberry
Yarrow

Layering

Blackberries
Catmint
Honeysuckle
Jasmine
Penstemon
Rambling rose
Raspberries
Rosemary
Salvias
Thyme
Yarrow