



Top Tips

Soft Stem Cuttings

Check the Compost/Growing Medium You Are Using

For cuttings you need a medium that is heavy enough to support the stems with a low level of nutrients and very good drainage (make sure you include sand if it isn't already in your compost).

Check the size of your pot

Make sure that the pot is large enough to allow for the roots to grow down after you have inserted your cuttings (usually 9 – 13cm is usually the minimum).

Taking cuttings

When?

These are the quickest growing stem cuttings and should be taken in the late Spring/early Summer (May and June).

Where?

Cuttings should be taken from the tip of new growth (about 5cm long) where the plant growth hormones are present in the largest quantities.

How?

Always use sharp, clean secateurs to reduce infection and damage. Cut just below a node (where the leaves meet the stem). Put your cuttings into water if you are not planting them immediately. Remove the leaves on the bottom third/half of the cutting before inserting it. You may also carefully nip out the very tip of the cutting to encourage root growth. Place about five cuttings in each pot; carefully positioned around the edge of the pot.

What then?

Water well, cover the cuttings with a thin opaque plastic bag to keep in the moisture and place in a warm sunlit area (greenhouse or windowsill). Try not to disturb them, but make sure they remain moist. Bottom heat will encourage quicker root growth.

Potting on Cuttings

Depending on the heat, light and type of plant soft stem cuttings may be ready for potting on after three/four weeks. Check the bottom of the pot to see if their roots are coming through. If they are ready, carefully invert the pot and loosen all the cuttings. Then remove and repot them into their own pot, which should be about 8cm wider in diameter than the cutting's rootball. As the plants grow repot until you are ready to plant them out into the soil.