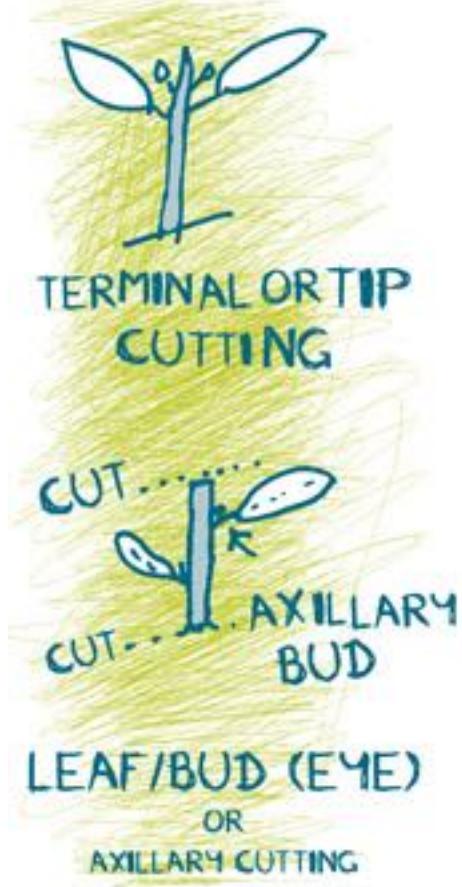


Growing Cuttings

Stock Plants. Cuttings reflect the plant they are taken from. It is important to use healthy stock plants. For example a nitrogen deficient plant gives nitrogen deficient cuttings. However a stock plant mustn't be overfed as this may cause soft growth in the cutting and little root development.

Taking Cuttings.



There are two common types of cuttings.

Tip cutting; likely to be the fastest rooting cutting.

Axillary Cutting; Slower to root as it has to break dormancy in the axillary bud and is probably 'harder' wood.

There are 3 different types of cuttings to consider:

1. Hardwood deciduous species and narrow evergreen species. (taken autumn/ winter)
2. Semi-hardwood (taken in summer after flowering)
3. Softwood cuttings. (taken in spring and early summer)

Where to make the Cut.

Most cuttings are taken beneath a node. (A few cuttings are made internodal e.g. Clematis.) New roots develop at the node. Make a straight cut, an angled cut may be more prone to fungal disease.

Remove leaves close to the stem leaving 2 or 3 at the tip.

Equipment: sterilise all equipment, ensure it is sharp.

Hormone Material; difficult cuttings are aided by using a hormone substance or possibly honey?

Rooting medium

In general we use a coir and perlite mix or a seed raising mix. Essential it is free draining. Cuttings are usually put in a 'community pot'.

Keeping the cuttings alive

Optimum development will happen if you can provide the following.

Warm atmosphere, high humidity, and the root zone about 25 degrees.

Transplanting Rooted Cuttings

Timing is important. Strong roots but not grown into a root ball.

Don't overpot a rooted cutting.

Suggestions of cuttings that have been successfully propagated in Autumn.

Abelia	Abutilon
Adenanthus	Buddleja
Callistemon	Chrysanthemum
Coprosma	Cornus
Correa	Cotoneaster
Daylily	Deutzia
Echium	Forsythia
Fuchsia	Hebe
Hydrangea	Ilex
Osteospermum	Pelargonium
Penstemon	Philadelphus
Phlomis	Plectranthus
Ribes	Rose
Salvia	Skimmia
Succulent	Viburnum
Weigela	

Deciduous trees after leaf drop

Divided roots

Soft fruit (gooseberry, blackcurrant)

Tubers or divided roots.

Vines