

## Softwood Rose Cuttings

Softwood Cuttings are taken from the current season's growth, and are best taken in spring or early summer so that they may grow a substantial root system before going dormant in winter.

### 1. Prepare Container.

- Use a flat or a plastic pot.
- Clean well and soak in a 10% bleach solution for at least 10 minutes.

### 2. Prepare rooting mix

- Use half vermiculite and half clean, coarse sand
- Other mixes will work also, pure perlite, perlite and sand, vermiculite and perlite.
- Wet the mixture, avoid breathing the dust.
- Fill the container almost to the top to provide good air circulation.

### 3. Collect Cuttings

- Pencil Sized 6 - 8" long, partially hardened with a flower or finished bloom.
- Keep Hydrated.
- Cutting should have at least 4 nodes, with at least 2 leaves on top.

### 4. Prepare Cutting

- Trim bottom flat just below a node
- Cut the top at an angle just above a leaf. Try to have at least 2 leaves above the soil level.
- Keep Hydrated! Float them in a container of water.

### 5. Rooting Hormone

- Use powder or liquid hormone.
- Follow instructions on the package.

### 6. Insert and Cover

- Make a hole or holes in the wet rooting medium with a pencil or other tool. Plant tissues can be damaged by pushing them into the medium.

- Insert the cutting so that at least two nodes are buried, but not so deep as to hit the bottom of the container.

- Water from the bottom, soak the pot in a bowl or sink.
- Cover with the top of a large clear plastic soda bottle, bottom cut off, top unscrewed.
- Keep warm but out of direct sun. Remove bottle and mist once in awhile.
- Roots should appear within 10 - 14 days.
- Just because you see top growth does not mean the roots have formed.
- The leaves may yellow and fall off, but don't give up!
- You can check for rooting with a gentle tug on the cutting.