

ASEXUAL PROPAGATION METHODS - II

STEM CUTTINGS (CONTINUED)

Cane cuttings - reserved for thick-stemmed plants

Polarity is dealt with here by planting the canes either horizontally or vertically in the medium with the axillary bud (prominent “bump” on stem) facing out or up.

Often used when a plant becomes too large and out of control

Examples: *Dieffenbachia, *Swiss Cheese Plant, *'Silver Queen' Aglaonema

Layering - type of "delayed" cutting technique; no stress to the "cutting" while rooting, since the plant part to be propagated remains attached to the parent until roots have formed.

Simple layering- used on loose, long-stemmed, viny plants or those with the attached plantlets.

Examples: *Devil's Ivy, *Heartleaf Philodendron, *Spider Plant

Air layering - strictly intended for thick-stemmed plants that have gotten too large

Examples: *Rubber Tree, *Dieffenbachia

LEAF CUTTINGS

To be successful, a plant must be able to regenerate not only new roots but also a new stem. This may require blade tissue-only, or the whole leaf. (blade and petiole)

Sessile Leaves - leaves lack petioles; remove the leaf along with the axillary bud at its base.

Examples: *Jade Plant, *Ghost Plant, Panda Plant

Leaves with Attached Petioles

Examples: *African Violets, *Peperomias, *Rex Begonias, *Gloxinias

Leaf Blade-Only - advantage is to get more plantlets because the exposed surface area is larger for more plantlets to arise.

Examples: *African Violets, *Begonias

Leaf Sections

Commonly used on Snake plant (most Sansevierias) - cut leaf sections from the large blade into 2-3" “notched” sections (strictly to maintain proper polarity when placed in medium).

MISCELLANEOUS TECHNIQUES

Plantlet Separation - cut off dangling plantlets from the ends of their trailing stems (runners or stolons).

Examples: *Spider Plant, *Strawberry Begonia

Offsets (offshoots) - new young plants at the base of the mother plant, pressed next to the main stem. Slice between parent and offset and place the offset into rooting media or there may be enough roots present to pot up the plant immediately.

Examples: *Cactus, *African Violets, *Medicine Plant

Division - plants have multiple stems; cut the plant as if slicing a pie - each piece should have a mass of attached roots with at least one stem

Examples: Boston Fern, Peace Lily, Snake Plant

Root Cuttings - more difficult than the other methods, and is seldom used for indoor plants. New plants also take longer to develop by this technique. Pieces should be taken from the biggest portion of the root system, cut into 1-2 inch sections and laid horizontally on the medium and pressed down an inch or so. Best time to take root cuttings is late winter/early spring when roots are well supplied with stored food reserves.

Examples: Geranium, Ming Aralia