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October 25, 2015

Seedy Characters HPSO Study Group

Propagating Shrubs by Hardwood Cuttings

Timing

In winter when plant is dormant. Best is just after leaves fall or just before buds break.

What plants make the best candidates

Deciduous shrubs and a few trees. See list below.

Healthy, vigorous growth, preferably stems without flowers or fruit. Prune hard in spring to force good cutting material.

Actinidia	Enkianthus	Ligustrum*	Rubus
Buddleja*	Euonymus	Lonicera*	Salix*
Callicarpa	Ficus	Lycium	Sambucus*
Campsis	Forsythia*	Metasequoia*	Santolina
Caryopteris	Genista	Morus	Sorbaria*
Catalpa	Hibiscus	Parthenocissus*	Spiraea*
Chaenomeles	Hydrangea*	Philadelphus*	Symphoricarpos*
Colutea	Hypericum	Phlomis	Tamarix*
Cornus*	Itea	Physocarpus*	Taxodium
Cotoneaster	Jasminum*	Platanus	Vaccinium
Cytisus	Kerria*	Populus*	Viburnum
Davidia	Kolkwitzia	Punica*	Vitex
Decaisnea	Lagerstroemia	Rhamnus	Vitis*
Deutzia*	Lavandula	Ribes*	Weigela*
Diervilla	Lavatera	Rosa	
Disanthus	Leycesteria	Rosmarinus	

*easiest

How to take cuttings

Must use new wood. Best chance for roots to form is where new wood meets old.

Make cuttings 6-12" long. Aim for thickness of a pencil. Cut off soft tips.

Cut at an angle at top and straight across at bottom (right under a node) to help you remember which end is up.

Dip bottom end in rooting hormone (optional).

Planting

Plant in well-draining garden soil. Make a V-shaped trench with a spade, pour some sand in the bottom if your soil is clayey.

Space cuttings 6" apart in rows 12-16" apart. Bury 2/3rds of the cutting.

Tamp down, water in.

Wait

Keep soil moist but not wet.

Watch for frost heaving, tamp down again if they pop up.

Plants should be ready to go to their new homes the following fall.