

Cuttings

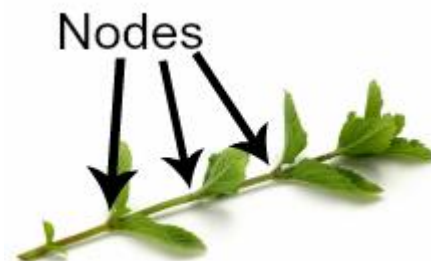
A cutting is the term we use for lengths of plant material being used specifically to propagate new plants and will create an exact replica of the original plant. Cuttings are usually 10 – 12cm in length and have 2 to 3 nodes. The nodes are usually where the new roots will develop from.

Softwood, Semi-hardwood and Hardwood Cuttings

These terms relate to the period in the growing cycle when the cutting is taken.

Softwood Cuttings:

These are generally taken in spring and early summer when the plant is putting on its new growth and there are a lot of growth hormones in the plant system. Soft wood cuttings usually strike (start to grow roots) relatively quickly. Chose slightly firmer pieces of plant material and avoid very soft sappy growth. Softwood cuttings may benefit from the addition of some heat via a heat mat.



Semi-hardwood Cuttings

These are taken mid- summer after flowering when the plant is putting on new growth and starting to harden. They strike quickly and give good results without the need for additional heat via a heat mat.

Hardwood Cuttings

These are generally taken at the end of summer and take longer to strike than those taken earlier in the season. However, as this period coincides with the garden's Autumn pruning, particularly of perennials, it is easy to source cutting materials. Hardwood cuttings are usually pieces of stem that are up to 20cm long and between 5 and 20mm in diameter. There should be four to six nodes on each piece. The only point to watch is that you **don't pop them in the media upside down!**



Growing Medium

- 🕒 Use **well-draining materials**, avoid using garden soil.
- 🕒 Try compost and sand, usually 2 buckets compost to ½ bucket sand.
- 🕒 You can also experiment with combinations of compost, peat moss, perlite and vermiculite.

Tips

- ⦿ Avoid taking cutting from any plant when it is in flower as these cuttings will have less potential for success.
- ⦿ Place the cut surface of the cutting into the soil, past the lowest node, this cut end may be dipped in a 'rooting hormone'. For a natural rooting hormone, you may try dipping the cutting in honey and or cinnamon.
- ⦿ Keep cuttings moist and protected.
- ⦿ Check for roots under the pot or tug gently on cuttings to find out when they have grown new roots. When they are ready there will be some resistance as the roots take hold in the soil. Also look for new leaf growth.
- ⦿ Put the cuttings in a sheltered spot to 'harden off' before gradually introducing them to a more open environment.

Resources:

- ⦿ Gardening Australia: How to take native cuttings
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s63iGkn8dpY>
- ⦿ Sustainable Gardening Australia
 - <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/plant-propagation-from-cuttings/>
 - <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/growing-from-hardwood-cuttings/>
- ⦿ ABC Gardening Australia
 - <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/soft-and-hardwood-cuttings/13275424>

Hormone powders or gels



Yates 50ml Purple Clonex Rooting
Hormone Gel



Yates 50ml Red Clonex Rooting
Hormone Gel



Yates 15g Plant Cutting Powder

- ⦿ <https://www.bunnings.com.au/search/products?q=hormone&sort=BoostOrder&page=1>