



Rose Cloning

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Central Arkansas Rose Society

Gardening 101- Roses

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PROGRAM: Propagating roses from cuttings

Materials needed:

- Clear or opaque plastic cups (like the ones made by Solo).
- Vermiculite or good potting soil with extra Perlite or sand added
- Rooting hormone such as Rootone, Hormex, Dip'N'Gro, Power Clone
- Clorox bleach water (rate of 15 parts water to 1 part bleach)
- Clear or green plastic water, juice or cola bottles with the bottoms removed; tops left on.
- Rose cuttings with at least three leaves, bud eyes in the leaf axis beginning to develop but not growing. Use cuttings with full size, established leaves. Cuttings should be free of all insects and fungus. It is best to take cuttings after the stem has bloomed in May, June, or October.
- Pencil, stick or dowel
- Pocket or paring knife
- Gallon or quart flower pots filled with good quality potting soil

Steps:

1. Cut two or three drainage holes in the bottom of a clear or opaque plastic cup.
2. Fill the cup with damp Vermiculite or with good quality damp potting soil amended with sand or Perlite. With a pencil or stick, make a planting hole for the cutting in the middle of the cup of soil.
3. When a rose has finished blooming, cut the stem from the bush about 1 inch below the 3rd or 4th set of leaves below the spent bloom. Remove the bloom and all leaves except two of the top two leaflets. A cutting for a large rose will be about 6 inches long and a cutting for a miniature rose will be about 3 to 4 inches long.

4. With a knife, lightly scar the cambium or top layer of the cutting just beneath the bottom leaf axil.
5. Because sanitation is important, rinse the cutting in running water and then soak the cutting in the Clorox and water solution for about 2 minutes. Rinse the cutting in plain water.
6. Dip the bottom inch of the cutting in the rooting hormone. If a powdered hormone is used, lightly tap the cutting to remove the excess powder (more is not better).
7. Insert the prepared cutting into the prepared cup of soil being careful not to remove the rooting hormone. Firm the soil around the cutting. Water the soil.
8. Place the plastic bottle over the cutting. The bottle should be large enough to assure that the leaves do not touch the sides of the bottle. Push the bottom of the bottle into the soil about one-half inch or more to making sure the bottle stays in place. *MAKE SURE THAT THE BOTTLE TOP REMAINS ON THE BOTTLE.*
9. Place the potted cutting in a shady area, out of all direct sun. The cup should be nestled into soft soil or sand. You may also place cuttings in a greenhouse during winter months. One of the best rooting beds is placed near an air conditioner unit and is made of sand.
10. *GO AWAY* and leave the cutting alone for several weeks.
11. When your curiosity is killing you and when substantial new top growth appears, lift the cup and check the bottom of the cup for roots. *DO NOT REMOVE THE CUTTING FROM THE CUP.*
12. When roots are numerous, gently remove the bottle from the cup/bush. This is best done on a shady day or in late evening. If the plant does not wilt after an hour or two, leave off the bottle. If the bush wilts, water the soil (not the leaves) and re-cover the bush with the bottle. Repeat this a few days later. Eventually you will be able to leave the cover (bottle) off.
13. Leave the young bush in the shady rooting bed for three or four weeks and then gradually move it to more light. This will allow the bush to “harden” and withstand the sun and wind.

CONGRATULATIONS! You have just cloned a rose bush by using asexual propagation. Your new bush will be a carbon copy of the “mother” bush. Your baby rosebush can now be transplanted into a prepared pot of soil or may be placed directly into a properly prepared hole in the garden. Plant the bush quickly to assure that the roots are not unnecessarily exposed to the sun and wind. Water the bush well with half-strength fertilizer solution—fish emulsion or Miracle-Gro is fine.

Care for your new bush as you would any other newly planted rosebush, keeping the well-draining soil watered and the bush sprayed for fungus control. Additional fertilizer should not be used until after the bush has bloomed.

For more information about growing roses and to join the Central Arkansas Rose Society contact Carol Shockley at carol.shockley@conwaycorp.net or call John Baker, 501-499-3102, Don Adlong, 501-329-6996 or visit our website: www.CentralArkansasRoseSociety.com