

Wild at Heart

Be wild, whatever your age

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Taking Cuttings

How to take and grow your own cuttings!



Taking cuttings is a fantastic traditional technique which is free and can be used to grow your own wildlife garden collection, and explore the amazing world of plants.

There is a wealth of information out there but this can over-complicate things with timings and growing factors – don't worry about producing the 'perfect' plant, just take a few cuttings per plant, give it a go to see what works for you, and have fun with it!

Just as with flower picking and foraging, do ask the land owner's permission first, or better still take cuttings from your garden or your shop-bought herbs!



Taking cuttings:

The basic idea is cutting a short leaf-stem from a living plant, and placing that piece straight into soil or into a glass of water to grow your own identical plant.

Wild at Heart is funded by the Big Lottery.

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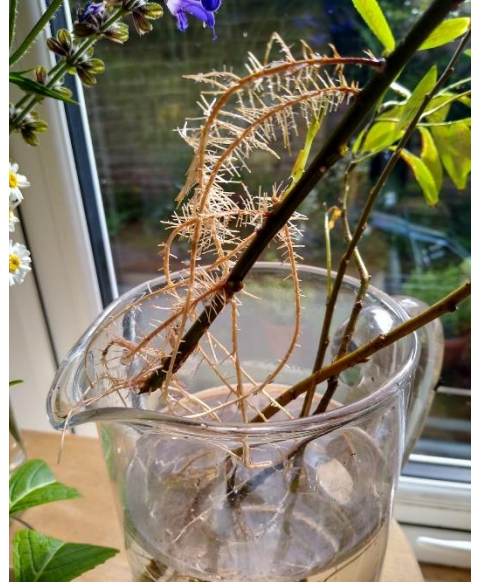
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Use sharp scissors or secateurs to snip off your plant piece, with roughly a 10-15 cm stem. Cut right below a 'leaf node' - where leaves sprout from the stem - to give it the best chance. Pick off some of these lower leaves in your cutting, this limits water loss from the leaves and allows this lower part to produce the roots.

If out and about when taking your cutting, remember to store your cuttings in a damp plastic bag, or pop straight into a jar of water if you're at home - this keeps your cutting from drying out and wilting.



If planting into soil, use a pencil to make a small hole on the edge of the pot where the drainage is best, and place your cutting in the hole.

Place your pot of soil or glass of water in a sunny windowsill, and over time you may see a lovely little root system growing from the bottom of the stem - this is why growing in a glass of water first is helpful, as you can clearly see which stems have been successful and should be replanted, and which to dispose of.



You do need to change the water regularly to stop it going murky, or if growing in a pot of soil keep it well watered and moist.

A good place to start could be kitchen herbs - basil, mint, sage and rosemary are all easily available, readily grow from cuttings, can be grown in a small space like a windowsill, and are all great for wildlife and for us!

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