

## **Soft Tip Cuttings**

Soft tip cuttings can be taken from many plants in spring and early summer including trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials. These cuttings are the most likely to take and can be taken from Hydrangeas, Aubrieta, Osteospermums, Argyranthemums, Betulas etc

### **Gathering the Material**

Water the plant the night before and gather materials early in the morning when the plant is turgid. Collect shoots that are not flowering and are new growth from this growing season. Place gathered material in a plastic bag to avoid drying out and do the cuttings as soon as possible.

### **Taking Cuttings**

Cut bottom of cutting straight across just under the closest node so that the node is still on your cutting. The bottom is the end that is already cut from being removed from the plant.

The cutting should be about 6cms and have at least two nodes under the growing medium and two above. Cut just above the 4<sup>th</sup> node (or above a node about 6cms from the bottom) at a diagonal. Make sure you do not use the growing tip in your cuttings as it needs to be removed to allow plants to root.

Remove leaves from the lower third of the cutting.

Thin leaves on top half of cutting if necessary.

Using a dibber place cutting in a pot of 50/50 moist compost and horticultural grit. Place cuttings around the edge of the pot ensuring the foliage of one plant does not touch another.

Use a clear plastic bag over the top of the cutting to reduce moisture loss and turn the bag inside out about every 4 days. Only water if compost dries out.

Keep cuttings in a warm place with light but not in strong direct sunlight. They should root in about 6-10 weeks and then should each be placed in their own pot of multipurpose compost.