Fruit Tree Propagation

Mulberry, Fig, and Pomegranate

Best way: Hardwood cuttings (my top recommendation)

This is the easiest and most reliable

When

Late winter- early spring (while the tree is breaking dormancy)

How to do it

1. Choose healthy wood - last year's growth

- pencil thickness
- not soft
- not cracked or old bark

2. Make cuttings:

- 8–10 inches long
- at least 3–4 nodes
- Cut at an angle

3. Dip the bottom of the cutting in rooting hormone

4. Stick directly in seed starting soil

Bury about ½ to ⅔ of the cutting. Make sure at least 2 nodes are below the soil line.

5. Water well and leave them alone

Keep soil:

- moist
- not soggy

Where to place them

Bright shade is best at first (not full blasting sun)

What you should see

In about:

- 3–6 weeks - buds break
- roots follow shortly after
- Leafing out does NOT mean it has rooted yet.

Softwood cuttings (summer method – more finicky)

You can do softwood cuttings in late spring / early summer, but:

- they dry out fast
- need humidity
- higher failure rate

Elderberry Propagation

Hardwood: Winter -Early Spring
Length: 8-12”
Nodes buried: 2
Hormone: optional
Humidity: low
Roots: 3-4 weeks

Softwood: Late Spring
Length: 4-6”
Nodes buried: 1
Hormone: needed
Humidity: High, use a dome
Roots: 2-4 weeks

Aloe vs. Rooting Hormone

Aloe

- Antibacterial/ antifungal
- Helps seal and protect the cut end
- Keeps cutting from drying out
- Does not contain hormones (auxins)

Rooting Hormone

- Contains natural auxins (usually IBA or NAA)
- Actively triggers root initiation
- Increases number of roots
- Makes rooting more uniform
- Higher success rate