

HOW TO PROPOGATE A SEMI HARWOOD PLANT SO YOU CAN HAVE MANY PLANTS!!

THESE INSTUCTIONS ARE FOR PITTOSPORUM BUT WORKS EQUALLY WITH EUCLYPTUS

Propagation by seed is a long process due to the two- to three-month germination period of the seeds. A reliable and quick way to propagate pittosporum is from semi hardwood cuttings taken in late summer or fall. Semi hardwood bends but does not break when bent and comes from the current year's growth of the shrub.

1

Moisten the potting soil with clean water and mix thoroughly to incorporate the water throughout the soil. The soil should be damp but not saturated. Fill the flower-pot with the moist soil.

2

Cut three stem sections from a healthy pittosporum that are 6 inches long. Trim the leaves to one-third of their original length with sharp scissors. Remove a quarter-inch of the bark from the bottom of the cuttings. This is referred to as wounding the cutting.

3

Pour 1 tablespoon of rooting hormone in a paper cup. Make three holes about 2 to 3 inches apart in the soil of the flower-pot. Dip the wounded end of the pittosporum cuttings in the rooting hormone and stick them into the holes of the soil. Tamp the soil into place around the cuttings.

4

Place three bamboo skewers at equal intervals around the flower-pot. The skewers keep the plastic away from the tops of the pittosporum cuttings. Cover the entire pot with a clear plastic bag or wrap the pot in plastic wrap. Seal the plastic at the top to create a miniature hot-house.

5

Set the pittosporum cuttings in a warm, bright window. Check the cuttings once a day for mould and moisture content. Mist the soil when it is dry to keep the humidity level high during propagation. Remove dead or diseased cuttings to avoid contamination of the entire group.

6

Check for root growth after four weeks with a gentle tug on the pittosporum cuttings. Root formation causes the plants to resist the pull. Remove the plastic and allow the new plants to grow. Transplant to larger pots when a generous root ball forms.