

Propagating Herbs from Cuttings

Grow new plants for enterprise and sustainability with cuttings from existing herbs

9-12

Society,
Enterprise &
Business



Growing your own new herb plants from cuttings instead of buying more is a rich **sustainable development** learning experience. The resultant new plants can be used in **enterprise** to generate income to reinvest in the grounds. Alternatively the pupils can take their plants home, care for them and report on how they have **cooked** with them.

This method of propagation using cuttings to clone plants has helped to save some of the world's endangered plants.

Good herbs to take cuttings from include mint, sage, thyme, lavender or lemon verbena. You are best taking cuttings from established plants in summer when the plants have already flowered and are actively growing with lots of healthy shoots.

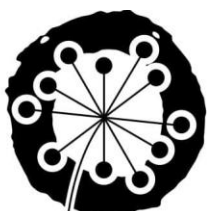
Equipment

- Mature herb plants
- Scissors or secateurs
- Recycled small pots with drainage holes
- Compost mixed with a little sand
- Recycled 0.5l plastic bottles or small plastic bags and elastic bands
- Lolly sticks
- Rooting hormone*
- Watering can

*Not necessary but it increases your chances of success

How to take a cutting

1. Cut a shoot from the current season's growth near the top of the plant.
2. Choose a shoot ~10cm long and 1cm diameter maximum.
3. Make the cut just below a leaf joint.
4. If the cutting is very leafy, trim off some of the lower leaves.
5. Dip the end of the cutting into rooting hormone powder.
6. Fill a pot with a compost and sand mix.
7. Dib a hole in the compost using a lolly stick and plant the cutting.
8. Label a lolly stick and pop it in the pot.
9. Water the plant and leave it to drain.
10. Cover the plant with a small plastic bottle cloche or a plastic bag secured with an elastic band.
11. Prepare several pots for the best chance of success.
12. Keep the cuttings moist and in a sunny spot.
13. After ~8 weeks the roots should form and can be checked by gently pulling the stem.
14. Sell these new herbs or plant them!



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