

Propagating Rhododendrons from Cuttings



October 2017



April 2018

Large leaved, Large Flowered Evergreen Types

- Collect cuttings from disease-free, well-hydrated plants September through December. Thin side growth roots better than strong terminal shoots.
- Reduce number of leaves and cut back remaining leaf size; make a fresh end cut, double-wound stem base, and dip into rooting hormone of appropriate concentration: 8,000 ppm IBA for most cultivars.
- Stick into 4-inch deep pots of rooting medium of equal parts of peat and perlite. (Pots should be washed and sanitized in bleach solution.) Place on heat mat in unheated greenhouse out of direct sunlight. Use mister or plastic dome to keep moist. Fungicide sprays may also be beneficial.
- When rooted (usually takes 4 to 5 months), pot into bark/potting soil mixture, tip prune, and apply weak fertilizer. Start to harden off after a few weeks and then move outdoors.



1,000 ppm powder and 10,000 ppm liquid



Bottom heat from seedling heat mat



Dwarf, Small Leaved Rhododendrons and Evergreen Azaleas

- Collect semi-ripe cuttings July through September.
- Reduce leaves, re-cut and double-wound stem base.
- Treat with 1,000 ppm rooting hormone and stick in outdoor rooting bed or in pots of equal parts peat and perlite in unheated greenhouse.
- Pot after rooting (may take several months), apply light fertilizer, and harden off after a few weeks, if in greenhouse, before moving outdoors.

Note: Deciduous azaleas are challenging, as they are difficult to root and to induce new growth.

...Rosalie Preble, September 2020