

Baton Rouge Rose Society Propagation Tips

November 2021

*In south Louisiana November is the best month for successful propagation because it is cool and you can still see blooms or evidence of past blooms. Old garden roses are the easiest to propagate. Modern roses can be propagated but at a lower success rate. Note that roses still under patent (17 years from date of introduction) cannot be legally propagated without paying a royalty to the holder of the patent.*

1. Prepare supplies: fertilizer free soil (if possible), small plastic pots, scoops for soil, labels and markers, rooting hormone, water source, buckets or containers to carry/store cuttings, gloves, hat, glasses etc.
2. Clean and sharpen tools: clippers, pruners, knives, etc.
3. Propagate on a day that isn’t windy. Wind will dry out cuttings if they are left in the open before potting.
4. Prepare your pots first by filling with soil and watering.
5. If you are going to transport the cuttings for later potting, store the cuttings in water or wrapped in wetted paper towels in a plastic bag. Pot within 2-3 days.
6. Use a pencil or straw to make a hole in the potted soil the size of the cutting’s diameter. You will use this hole for the cuttings. Most successful cuttings are of small diameter.
7. Cut on a stem (preferably on new growth) that is blooming or has bloomed at a 45 degree angle ½ inch under a node. The cutting should be 6-8“ long.
8. Scar the cutting above the bottom node gently with your fingernail or pruners.
9. Cut off the bloom and remove the foliage on the lower half of the cutting.
10. Ensure that you have at least 2 nodes and no leaves on the section of cutting to be planted in the soil.
11. Dip or roll the bottom of the cutting in rooting hormone that is spread on a flat surface not in the rooting hormone jar.
12. Place the cutting carefully into the hole in the pot so as not to remove the rooting hormone from the sides. Ideally, about 50% of the cutting should be in the soil.
13. Dispose of the unused rooting hormone. Do not put it back in the jar as it will contaminate the remaining hormone.
14. Carefully pack the soil around the cutting.
15. Water the pot well and let it drain.
16. Cover the cuttings with a plastic bag or a large soda bottle with the bottom cut out.
17. Place in a location protected from the sun but with adequate light. The east side next to a house or a structure works well.
18. Keep the cuttings moist until spring.
19. Repot as needed when the cuttings begin to show new growth.
20. Plant them in the late spring or over summer them in large pots kept watered and protected from the hot summer sun.