

handled in the same way - it is important to ensure that these cuttings have a viable growth bud at the topmost node. (figs 10 and 11)

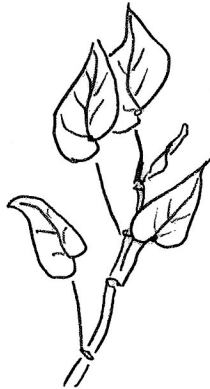


Figure 10

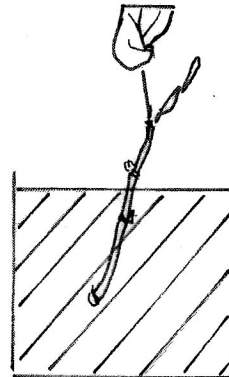


Figure 11

Tuberous Begonias

There are three ways in which tuberous begonias may be vegetatively propagated: from basal cuttings, lateral shoots or leaf cuttings.

a. Basal cuttings. When the tubers come out of dormancy they commence the new season's growing cycle by producing shoots from the surface of the tuber. Older tubers will produce more than one shoot and these surplus shoots may be taken as cuttings. When the shoot is sufficiently developed cut it from the tuber using a very sharp, sterile blade (a scalpel is ideal) so that a portion of the tuber itself remains on the base of the shoot. This portion will contain an 'eye' which is essential in forming the new tuber. Treat then as any other tip cutting as described previously.

b. lateral shoots. As the tuberous begonia develops, side shoots will grow from nodes on the main stem. These shoots may be used to propagate new plants. Cut the shoot from the stem ensuring that the 'eye' located against the stem is included by making two cuts, one downward against the stem and the second horizontally under the shoot. A wedge shaped piece of the main stem will now be attached to the base of the cutting. Again, treat this as you would any other tip cutting, being careful not to bury it too deeply. (fig 12)