

Potting up

New plants should be potted into a normal potting mix that contains a ration of controlled release fertiliser. Always pot into small containers and increase their size as the plant grows. Resist the temptation to pot up initially to very large containers as 'over-potting' may result in the loss of the plant.

Leaf cuttings are ready to pot up when the new plants have reached a suitable size. The stress of potting up very small plants may endanger them so it is best to wait until the new plant is reasonably large and robust. Experience will tell you when the time is right.

Tip cuttings are ready for potting up when a good root system has developed and new foliage has grown to a reasonable size. The time taken may be anything from six to ten weeks or maybe more if conditions are not ideal. It is perfectly OK to inspect the roots by removing a cutting from the mix and returning it if it is not yet ready.

If the new plants are destined for garden planting it is recommended that they be hardened off in a shade house for a reasonable period and until they are of a good size. This period will usually be a complete winter season, especially if they have been potted on in autumn. Avoid whenever possible planting out in the open garden in autumn or winter - spring or early summer is the ideal time.