

VOICE: If there's only one leaf on the cutting, if you lose it, is the cutting lost?

MR. OLSSON: If there is a new shoot starting, then of course it would have other leaves, but without the original leaf and no new shoot, there's no use potting it. It can have beautiful roots, but there's no use to pot it, as far as I can see.

VOICE: How much hoof and horn do you use in the potting media?

MR. OLSSON: We don't know how much you should use. We use very little, approximately 4 lbs. to a mixture of 4 bales of peat moss and 1/3 parts sand.

VOICE: Have you tried redwood sawdust in place of peat?

MR. OLSSON: I haven't personally, but Martin Usrey and I have been through quite a few different mixtures, and I think Monrovia Nursery will also agree that sand isn't bad at all.

MODERATOR MOREY: The next material under discussion is Convolvulus cneorum. Mr. McCabe has a reasonably able substitute in Mr. Martin Usrey of Monrovia Nursery Co., who will give this talk.

PROPAGATION OF CONVOLVULUS CNEORUM

Mr. Martin Usrey
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In the propagation of Convolvulus cneorum (Morning glory bush) we have tried taking cuttings at different times of the year; however, the nature of the plant is such that the wood is always soft. Consequently, the cutting is made a little longer than it would be otherwise in order to get into firmer wood. Cuttings are made about 5" long, with the basal cut made just below the node.

The best times for the propagation of this plant was found to be at two different months in the year - April and September, although cuttings made at these times still gave erratic results; some years very good, but in other years only fairly good. When the cuttings were made at other than the times mentioned, the results were also erratic, but response was usually poor.

The "hormone" we use is Hormodin No. 1 because the condition of the wood necessitates this concentration. Results have been poor where higher concentrations were used.

The cuttings are stuck into a 2 parts Sponge Rok (perlite), 1 part peat moss mix when the flats are to be placed in the coldframes, and into a 3 parts Sponge Rok, 1 part peat moss when they are placed under intermittent mist.

We tried propagating cuttings of this plant by two different methods: under intermittent mist and in a coldframe. In both instances we had good results. For intermittent mist our results were 79% rooting compared with 65% for the coldframe method for cuttings taken in September. This was found to be the month for best rooting of Convolvulus in intermittent mist under our conditions. For coldframe propagation, April was the best time and compared favorably with September for intermittent mist. Rooting was 81% for April.

Results are often erratic with this plant. For example, during September we have had as low as 39% rooting when using Wilson's Anti-damp as a cutting dip. We now cut them dry, because results with fungicides were not consistent. Poor results are often due to fungus problems, aggravated by excessive shading. We try to adjust our lighting so that on cloudy days, we reduce the shading by rolling back the muslin shading which we have over our frames.

MODERATOR MOREY: Are there any questions?

VOICE: How many cuttings to a flat?

MR. MARTIN USREY: Oh, with these we'd probably end up with a couple of hundred.

MR. HERMAN SANDKUHLE: I'd just like to add that this plant is one of my favorites, we use it a lot. It takes the place of some of the grey foliage plants that the landscape architects call for today and it's not subject to the water root mold as much as some of the other types. I think nurserymen that are interested in retail sales should promote this particular item. It also puts on a nice blossom, as Martin has pointed out.

VOICE: Are there different varieties of this plant?

MR. MARTIN USREY: There is a more compact type which we have tried to stay away from as it does not bloom, or if it blooms, it's very sparse. The looser growing type blooms very freely - which is this one here. The other one grows quite compact and I do not believe, in this instance, is as desirable as the looser growing one.

VOICE: You didn't say anything about hardening off. Is there any particular way of hardening these off?

MR. MARTIN USREY: We have a greenhouse which we use for hardening off. When you are rooting things under a mist, to take them directly out into a lath house, sometimes it's too sudden, especially if you should have warm weather, which we can get in October or November in our country. We put them in this greenhouse for a week or so and then pot them up.

MODERATOR MOREY: The next topic to be discussed and our final subject is Ilex aquifolium and it will be discussed by Carl Schmidt of Point Reyes Station, California.