

Propagation of *Nandina domestica* Cultivars at Tawakoni Plant Farm

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All cultivars of *Nandina domestica* are propagated by semihardwood cuttings, except the purchased tissue-culture 'Harbor Dwarf' cultivar. The low yield of cuttings of 'Harbor Dwarf' makes cutting propagation impractical.

Nandina propagation is not very difficult; however, as in any propagation procedure attention to detail can make the difference between success and failure. Prior to propagation the beds and walks are sprayed with a 16 to 1 solution of water and bleach. The mist nozzles are cleaned and checked for coverage. Further prevention of pathogens is provided by a chlorine gas injection system at the propagation pumphouse.

Nandina cuttings are collected from container plants and field-grown stock plants in October. The cuttings are then submerged in a captan solution and cut to a length of 2½ to 3 in. with terminal shoots removed. The wood should be reddish, and from current season's growth. We remove lower leaves, leaving the two terminal leaflets. On some of the larger-leaved *nandinas* it may be necessary to cut the leaflets back. The basal end of the cuttings are quick dipped in a 3,000 ppm IBA (indolebutyric acid).

The *nandina* cuttings are then direct stuck one per pot in prefilled 2¼-in. rose pots in a 30- × 96-foot polyhouse covered with 55% shade. The medium is 7½ fine pine bark : 3 medium perlite : 2 peat moss : 1 sharp sand (by volume) with triple superphosphate, dolomitic lime, and other micronutrients. Cuttings are put under intermittent mist of 2- to 4-sec duration at 6- to 8-min intervals for the first 10 days. Misting intervals are gradually increased until cuttings are rooted.

A bottom heat system is used under the cuttings with the temperature maintained at 75°F. The bottom heat system consists of a swimming pool heater and a pump circulating water through a 2-in. PVC manifold with 16-mm lateral lines spaced 6 in. apart under a 3-in. sandbed.

Cuttings stuck in October are ready to plant in 1- or 2- gal containers by March of the following year. The plants are ready for sale about one year from the sticking date.