

Foliar Application of Rooting Hormone in Softwood Propagation®

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THE PRINCIPLE

Spray Drip-Down Method. Spray solution enters the plant through stomata to the vascular system and the hormone reaches the base of the cutting by mass flow and releases slowly, inducing rooting.

BENEFITS

- Save time on dipping of cuttings into hormone.
- Saves money through minimal use of PPE.
- Workers are not exposed to chemicals all day.
- The hormone is water based and will have zero plant mortality, unlike alcohol based hormones.

METHOD

- 1) Stick softwood cuttings as usual in media for rooting or lay down flats in the greenhouse.
- 2) Water the cuttings adequately. Spray rooting hormone at required concentration (1,000 PPM) on completely dried foliage (next day morning, when no direct sunlight).
- 3) Let the foliage absorb the hormone completely without allowing any chance for dilution of the hormone by misting / watering before drying.



Figure 1. Successfully rooted *Sambucus* cutting.

- 4) Maintain the proper environment in greenhouse for proper rooting of cuttings [relative humidity 90%, temperature at 28 °C (82 °F)] with adequate light level (diffused).
- 5) Keep the media moist enough to maintain leaf turgidity without any signs of wilting and stress. Balance hand watering providing allowance for misting coming in line with environment settings.
- 6) Roots start initiating from 7–8 days after the sticking. Keep same environment until hardening stage.

RESULTS

Over 90% success with *Sambucus*, *Spiraea*, *Potentilla*, *Cornus*, *Hydrangea*, *Weigela*, *Polygonum*, and *Sorbaria* using Hortus IBA Water Soluble Salts. Figure 1 shows a successfully rooted *Sambucus* cutting.