

CLONING

A clone is a cutting taken from another plant, often called a mother plant, and then rooted. A clone will have every quality of the mother plant including sex, hardiness, diseases, and stresses. Therefore, it is important to take cuttings from only the strongest, healthiest plants. Here are a few easy steps to getting a healthy clone:

Prepare a clean area with: a sterile razor knife or pruning shear, humidome, flat tray, rooting hormone (gel seems to work best), rooting media (rockwool, organic starter plugs, oasis cubes, seedling mix, etc.) and a spray bottle full of water.

A cutting should be about 3 to 5 inches in length with at least two leaf sets attached.

Remove any leaves near the bottom of the cutting to be cloned. With a sterile dry razor or pruning shear, make a diagonal cut on or just below a leaf/stem node.

Quickly dip the clone into a rooting hormone to seal the cut and prevent air (an embolism) from entering the cut.

Gently put the clone in your chosen growing medium. Repeat these steps for the rest of the clones. Mist the clones with water once in the morning and once more in the evening if needed. Keep the clones covered with the humidome.

The ideal temperature for clones is 75 to 80 degrees F. Ideal humidity is between 80 to 90%. Clones prefer a low ph of 5.5 to 5.7.

Technologically advanced aeroponic (a technique involving the misting of roots suspended in air) cloning machines provide another effective option for cloning plants.



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