# Rooting cuttings by hydroponics

## **Patrick Bucknell**

Last spring I bought a Hydropod in the hope of being able to strike cuttings from difficult subjects.

The hydropod consists of a large plastic box with a transparent cover. In the bottom is a pump operating two sprinkler bars and a heater. The box is filled with water up to the sprinkler bars. The top of the box is covered with a piece of plastic pierced to hold 20 plastic baskets. Each basket can hold a cube of rockwool for seeds, or a piece of foam rubber for cuttings. Nutrients are added once roots appear.

I gave my Hydropod a first run with seeds. It is more suitable for large seeds than small ones. Enormous tomato plants were produced in no time!

My real object was to strike *Carpenteria californica*. In this I was amazingly successful – they were rooted in 12 days. It almost seems that the most difficult subjects root quickest. Zonal pelargoniums go rotten and I was unsuccessful with pinks, *Daphne bholua* and *Osmanthus heterophyllus*, the Chinese Holly.

Cuttings placed in the box 19 May 2011	days to being well rooted
Abutilon vitifolium	25
Aster <b>x</b> frikartii	16
Carpenteria californica	12
Clematis (large-flowered)	30
Daphne <b>x</b> burkwoodii	40
Daphne odora	18
Deutzia	18
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis	15
Hydrangea aspera Villosa Group	30
Lonicera (climbing)	15
Olearia phlogopappa	15
Penstemon	19
Perovskia	12
Philadelphus	30
Rose (climbing)	19
Salvia (hardy)	10
Syringa microphylla	18
Syringa (Canadian hybrid)	30
Viburnum x bodnantense	18
Failures: zonal pelargoniums, pinks, Daphne bholua, Osmanthus	

Patrick Bucknell





I did use hormone rooting solution, but I imagine this was washed off by the spray before it could have any effect. All the rooted cuttings transferred successfully into multi-purpose potting compost and grew on well.

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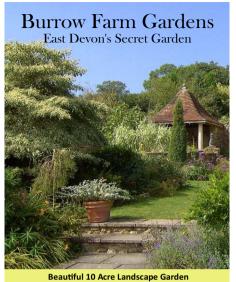




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