

Cuttings the Franken Way by Frank Davies

First you need some **MULTI-PURPOSE COMPOST** and **VERMICULITE** medium grade, mix 2 parts compost to 1 part vermiculite.

The next item required is a seed tray, size of which depends on how many leaves you are putting in.

Fill the tray with compost mix, water with warm water and place where you intend to grow your cuttings, i.e. window sill, propagator, greenhouse or hot bed. (Cuttings taken from September to May do need extra heat, from the end of May to the end of August no extra heat is required). Let the compost in the tray settle for 24 hours. Find a nice medium size leaf [1], take it off the plant, now you can do two things with this leaf, you can cut 1 ½ inches off the tip [2], make a groove in the compost ¼ to ½ inches deep, place the cut edge of the leaf into the groove firming slightly [3]. Or with the leaf laid flat on its front, cut out the main rib [4] and place in the compost as before [5]. The compost should be kept moist **NOT WET** all through the growing time, we find it takes one month for the leaf to root, and a further two months before you see any young plantlets [6].

Take the plantlets off the leaf, they should pull off quite

easily, and place in another seed tray filled with the compost you use for potting. Grow on for about six weeks and then pot them into 9 cm half pots (3 ½ inch half pots).

Cuttings taken in January should be showing some flowers by the middle of August. My cuttings are taken in September/October and are showing flower by the middle of July. If you do cuttings during **SUMMER** months **SHADE** from **BRIGHT SUNLIGHT** a sheet of newspaper laid over the top will do.



Young plants for potting



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]



[6]