



Tutorial #2

Cloning for Propagation using Soil Cubes!

This tutorial is a simple method of propagation called cloning. There are several reasons to clone instead of growing from seed. One, is that it makes duplicate copies of known, genetically superior plants, from your garden. Two, you get viable, transplant-ready plants, in a fraction of the time it takes to grow from seed. This method will allow you become your own nursery! This is one of the methods that commercial nurseries use to produce large numbers of garden plants to sell at retail.

Project Time: Less than 1 hour

Stuff Needed

- ← **Mother (this is the donor plant that we will take the clones from)**
- ← **Knife/razor blade/or garden snips**
- ← **Tray of Soil Cubes!**
- ← **Cloning gel, rooting powder, etc.**

Mother Plant



Here is the mother tomato plant I am going to take the cuttings from with a bowl of water to put the cuttings into.



I take the cutting from the ends where the new growth is occurring.

Have a container of water to put the cuttings in until we are ready to get them in the Soil Cubes.



Next, we need a tray of cubes ready to root the clones in.

Here is the cloning gel I use. You can purchase this at many online garden supply sites, ebay, amazon, your local nursery, etc...

Many people use rooting powder instead of gel. These all work well and are simply used to stimulate the production of roots on the cuttings. I like the gel, as it seems to help keep the cuttings moist within the cubes, during the first few days.



Next I need to trim off the lower leaves in order to expose a proto-stem that will be inserted in the cube and will produce roots.



Now a dip in the rooting compound, powder, or gel and into the cubes!



Finally, here are 16 clones set up to root! I find that about 20% of my cuttings fail to root successfully. Your mileage may vary, but keep in mind that you will need to start more cuttings than you expect to use, because of this. Keep the cubes very wet for up to two weeks until you start to see roots protrude from the bottom of the cubes. Rooting should take from 7-14 days for most plants. I will often cover the tray with a cellophane tent for the first week to help retain moisture as well. Also, you will see that the tray is lined with plastic. This really helps me to keep the cubes wet until they root. Have fun!

“Be Fruitful and Mulch Apply!”