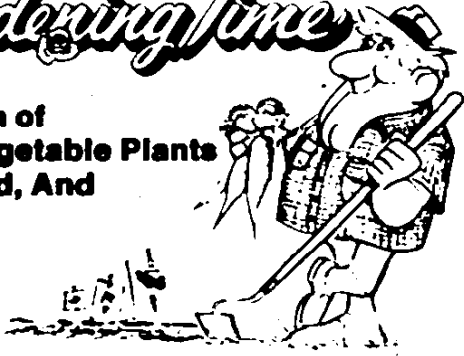


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# All you want to know

## Seeds

Seed is the most inexpensive way to produce a large number of plants. It does, however, take slightly longer to produce mature plants. Some of the plants that can be grown from seed are African violets, gloxinias, begonias, coleus, fuchsias, cacti, sultan snapweeds, and cyclamens.

Seed can be sown in sand, sphagnum moss, peat moss, vermiculite, perlite or soil. The seed medium should be well drained and sterilized to kill weed seeds, insects, and disease-causing organisms.

The container should be three inches deep or less and have drainage holes. Place a little sphagnum moss over the drainage holes. Apply 1/4-inch of vermiculite on top of the soil. Moisten the soil by placing it in a pan of water until the vermiculite is moist.

Place the seeds uniformly on the

vermiculite. Do not cover very small seeds, such as those of the African violet. Cover larger seeds with a sprinkling of dry vermiculite, just enough so they cannot be seen. Now place the entire container in a polyethylene bag.

Place the container just out of the sun's rays and keep at a temperature of 65-75 degrees (F.). Remove the bag as soon as the seed leaves are well developed. After removing the bag, keep the soil moist by watering from below. Fertilizer is not necessary. The seedlings may be transplanted once the true leaves (the second set to appear) have fully developed. When transplanting, use the same soil mixture as for germination.

## Cuttings

Cuttings are leaves, stems, or roots cut from the stock plant. There are two types of stem cuttings, tip and cane, and three types of leaf cuttings, whole leaf, leaf sections and leaf-bud. Propagation by cuttings produces a great many plants from one plant.

Tip cuttings are suitable for propagating coleus, schefflera, geranium, fuchsia, Christmas cactus, poinsettia, philodendron, and other similar types. Tip cuttings are cut just below a leaf and should be three to five inches long. The more leaves left on the tip, the better. Remove any lower leaves

before inserting the tip in the rooting medium.

Cane cuttings are used for propagating dumbcane, Chinese evergreen, dracaena, and similar plants with cane-like stems. Cut the cane three inches above the soil line and then cut it into pieces two to three inches long.

The circular rings, or leaf scars, contain dormant buds or eyes. Each piece should have two of these circular



VINCE ASSEMANNY

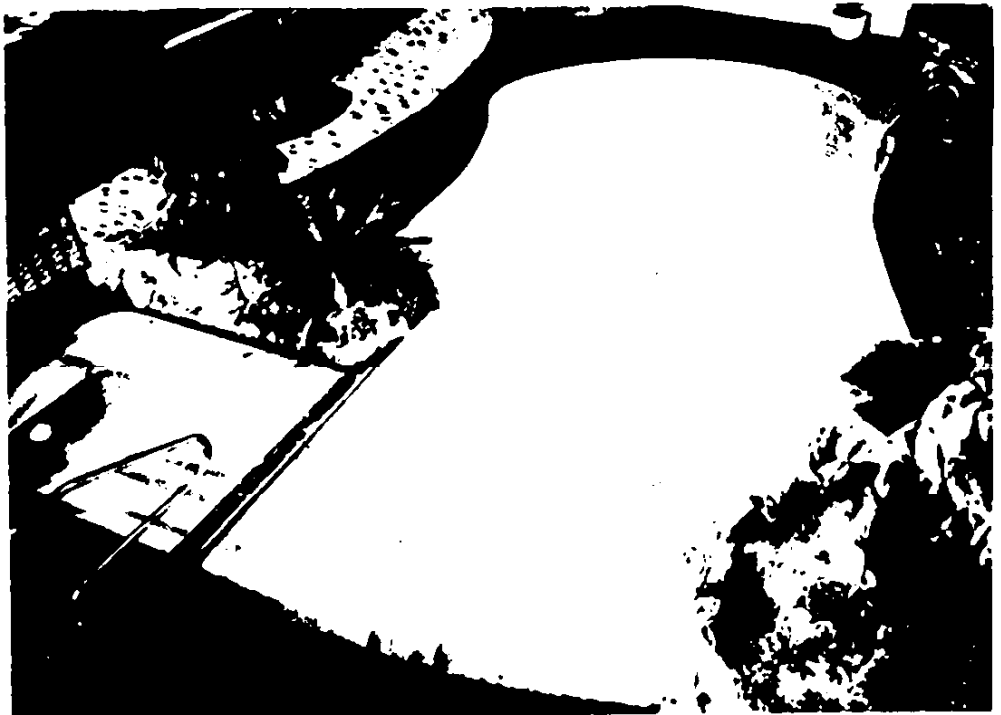
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