

VIBURNUMS FROM SOFTWOODS

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It is a great pleasure for me to be here this afternoon and to talk to you on the subject of viburnums. My father has been propagating now for well over 35 years. We propagate most plants including the shade and ornamental trees, evergreens, ground covers, broadleaf evergreens and a great amount of perennials. I cannot say that propagating viburnums is as easy as throwing them on the ground but I feel they are easy to root as it is to germinate tomato seeds. *Viburnum burkwoodi* and *Viburnum carlesii* are very easy to root. We try to take our cuttings normally about the end of June when the cuttings are long enough. This is normally when the second set of foliage is formed. The cuttings are normally four to five inches long. The cuttings are brought into the greenhouse, they are cleaned and dipped into hormone. Up to the last few years we had not used any hormone at all and have had excellent results. The process is quicker with the hormone. We have been using Hormodin #3 mixed with water. The cuttings are placed in a glass greenhouse shaded with lime. The ventilators and doors of the greenhouse are kept closed during the rooting period to keep it as tight as possible. The medium used is just plain sand. We use equal parts of concrete and mason sand. The cuttings are syringed lightly about three times a day. On warm days the walks are also watered down to keep the humidity as high as possible. We have had rooting in less than four weeks, particularly when we use the hormone. Ordinarily it is about an eight weeks process. The cuttings after rooting are potted in 2½ inch clay pots. We tried jiffy pots one year but this was not good for them. The root system stayed small and it seemed as though the pots absorbed the heat from the sun and did considerable damage. We use sterilized soil and mix it with sand and peat moss and vermiculite, if it is available. The pots are placed in a warm greenhouse to stimulate active growth before winter. They are then placed in a cool greenhouse, maintained at about 50°F, in late fall and kept there throughout the winter. About the middle of March a liquid fertilizer is applied and by the middle of June when they are ready to be set out they are at a height of about nine to ten inches. The cuttings are normally taken off of three-year-old plants. By carrying the cuttings in the greenhouse over winter we have very little loss.

MODERATOR TUKEY: The next talk will be presented by Dr. Richard Stadtherr from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His subject is "*Magnolia grandiflora* by Cuttings".