

***Wisteria* Propagation by Root Cuttings**

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Wisteria is not a difficult plant to reproduce; however, very little is written about the propagation of *Wisteria* by root cuttings. Common propagation methods include softwood cuttings and budding. When rapid propagation is necessary and large quantities of softwood cuttings are not available, it may be expeditious to use root cuttings. *Wisteria sinensis* 'Aunt Dee', a cold-hardy selection of Chinese wisteria from Minneapolis, Minnesota was used in this rooting trial.

In December, 1-year-old field-grown plants were dug bare-root and prepared for retail sales. Root pieces were selectively removed from the plants with polarity being careful maintained. The root pieces were later cut into 2½- to 3-in. sections. At no time were the cuttings allowed to dry. The cuttings were packed in sawdust and stored at 33F in a cooler. No hormones were used to treat the cuttings prior to planting. Ground level beds in an unheated greenhouse were prepared to receive the cuttings. The rooting media was a fine grade of pumice; however, any porous, well-drained medium would work. The cuttings were planted in late March. They were planted vertically with the tops of the cuttings level with the surface of the pumice. Within 3 weeks, new shoots were visible, but emergence was sporadic. Root pieces that were about as thick as a pencil were the most reliable and strongest. Rooting percentages were in the 75% range.

This method will yield big healthy liners if they are held in the greenhouse until the spring of the following year. This is a very simple propagation technique, but it can be a useful tool to supplement a softwood cutting program that is already in use.