

How to Propagate Butterfly Weed Using Greenwood Cuttings

1. Take a cutting of the plant from this year's growth. Clip and discard the top of the cutting (the fast new growth or the flowering parts). These sections draw excessive energy from the development of new roots. Clip the cutting into sections that include three to four nodes. The nodes are located where the leaves join the stem.



Step 2

2. Gently pinch off all but the top-most leaves on each section, being very careful to not injure the nodes. If the top leaves are long, cut them in half crosswise. Clip the bottom of the cutting just below the lowest node.



Step 1

3. Dip the lowest node in water and then in hormone rooting powder. Tap off excess hormone.



Step 3



Step 4

4. Make a narrow hole in the planting medium. Insert the cutting in the planting and firm the soil around the cutting, being careful to leave the rooting hormone intact.

5. Place a plastic dome over the cuttings for a greenhouse effect that will help retain a highly humid environment. The cuttings should ideally be kept at 70 to 80 degrees. In about 6 – 8 weeks enough roots should be established for transplanting. If using the pod-type receptacle as depicted to the left, the entire plant can be transplanted without injury to the new roots.



Step 5

Best Practices:

- Use a sterile, soil-less medium when starting cuttings to reduce potential plant disease. Use a commercial seed-starting mix or try 1 part sand to 1 part perlite.
- Keep the work area as clean as possible to reduce potential plant disease.
- Keep the propagation tray in diffused light until ready to transplant and then harden-off gradually.
- Adjust the humidity and water as necessary to avoid an overly dry (add water) or overly wet (vent the dome) environment.
- In 6 weeks, gently tug the plant by the stem. If resistance is noted, the plant is likely rooting, and is ready for transplanting.