



Kick off the 2018 growing season



- **Seedy Saturday**

This coming Saturday - 10th February at Methodist Church Hall in Alton (Next to M&S) between 10:00am – 12:00pm

Swap any excess seeds you have for what you need, or select from the various packets on offer for a small donation





SEEDS

FIRSTLY - WHAT'S NEEDED

- Recommend using specialist seed compost



- Tap water not rainwater
- Keep in the light
- Keep in a warm

- Vermiculite or perlite to add compost to help aeration & water retention
- A variety of containers -
Modular cells, seed trays,
recycle your plastic
mushroom containers



SEEDS

WHICH SEEDS & CONTAINERS?

Check packets for instructions on when to sow and at what depth

Different seeds require different sowing techniques

Prepare labels & containers

Root trainers for sweet peas to encourage root growth



Use a variety of containers, including recycling plastic ones





SEED - SOWING STEPS

1. Sow seeds as per packet instructions - cover with layer of compost or vermiculite & label & always date
2. Cover with clear film/or dome/or in a heated propagator
3. Prick out seedlings to grow them on, lift by leaf only not stem
4. Pinch out tops when seedlings are large enough to encourage side growth
5. Remember - succession planting





BASAL CUTTINGS

DAHLIA, LUPINS, DELPHINIUMS

- 5-10cm shoots growing from the base of a plant
- Use a sharp clean, sterile knife to sever them from the plant, **cutting** close to the crown
- No need to cut leaves off
- place each **cutting** in a 3-inch pot with gritty potting compost (to help drainage) & label & date
- Keep in unheated greenhouse





STEM & SIDE CUTTINGS

Penstemons, fuchsia, diascia,
pot germaniums

- Prepare all pots & labels
- Use a sharp clean sterile blades
- Collect healthy suitable plant material cutting below a leaf node
- Remove the lower leaves so you have a bare stem and remove any flower/growing tip
- Pot up your cutting & water in & label & date





PINCHING OUT CUTTINGS

STOP “LEGGINESS”, ENCOURAGE GROWTH

**Use scissors/ knife
/finger nail to gently
remove the shoot tips.**

**Repeat pinching 2 or 3 more times.
Allow 2 pairs of leaves to expand
fully on each of the subsequent
side shoots**





OTHER TYPES OF CUTTINGS

Softwood - hydrangea, lavender, forsythia and other shrubs, salvia, pelargoniums, marguerites and osteospermum

TIMING: Spring and early summer

- Cut off a section of stem. Select healthy growth that's 3 to 6 inches long
- Clip off leaves on the lower half of the shoot so you have a bare stem to insert into your potting mix, nip off growing tip
- Pot up your cutting & water & label & date





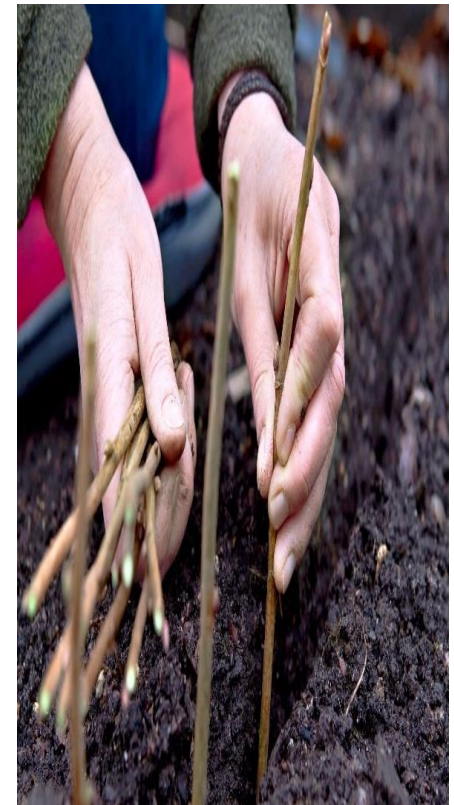
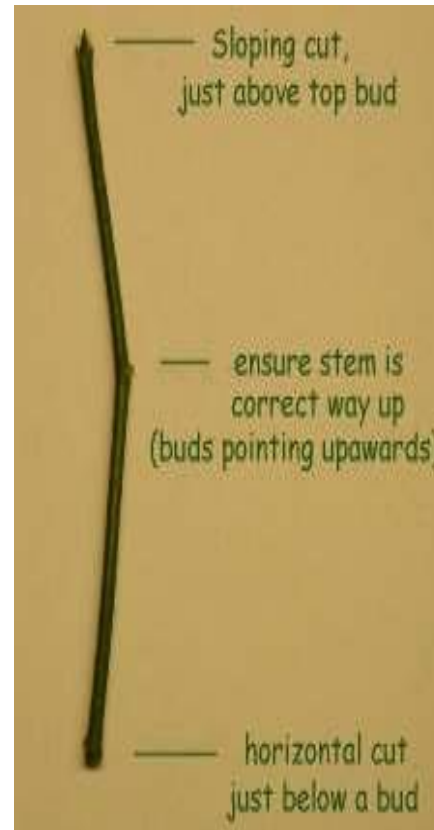
HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

Hardwood - forsythia, kerria, roses, philadelphus, spiraea, weigela and willow, and some fruit

- Select vigorous healthy shoots that have grown in the current year
- Remove the soft tip growth
- Cut into sections 15-30cm (6in-1ft) long, **like a pencil**, cutting cleanly above a bud at the top, with a sloping cut to shed water and as a reminder which end is the top
- Pot up your cutting & water & label & date

Timing : Mid-autumn until late winter

Fruit – redcurrants, blackcurrants





DIVIDING SNOWDROPS

- Usually wait until they finish flowering
- Dig up a clump, divide by pulling clump apart with your hands into smaller groups of bulbs
- Be careful not to puncture/harm the bulbs
- Replant each new clump at the same depth as they were at before, making sure the base of the hole has been loosened up with a garden fork or a trowel to help with drainage





DIVIDE YOUR PLANTS – HARDY GERANIUMS CANNA'S, HOSTAS'S, RHUBARB, GRASSES

CLUMPS – HARDY GERANIUMS GRASSES, CROCOSMIA

- Dig up the clump to be divided by inserting the shovel/or fork deep into the soil around the perimeter to loosen roots and isolate the clump
- Separate the plant (it will depend on its size how many new clumps you get!)
- Replant & feed & water





DIVIDE YOUR PLANTS – HARDY GERANIUMS, CANNA'S, HOSTAS'S, AGAPANTHUS, GRASSES

- Remove plant from the pot, or dig up a section of the clump if in the garden
- Cut into several pieces with a sharp knife
- Root prune to invigorate the plant
- **In pots** - crocks/stones in pot to improve drainage
- Use a mix of MP compost and JI No. 3 to help feed the plant. Gravel on surface
- **In garden** – add bone meal around roots to help feed plant
- Water in & label & date

POT BOUND – AGAPANTHUS, HOSTAS, CANNAS





PLANT SALE- SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2018 FROM 1030-1230 – GROW, GROW ,GROW





SUMMER SHOW – SAT 7TH JULY

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT!

You have seen several ways to produce plants or you may already have a favourite plant growing in your garden

so why not take the next step and exhibit one of your own at the Show





CLASSES FOR ALL

Plants, funny shaped veg, fruit, cakes, jam, chutney - bound to be a class you can enter.





YOU TOO COULD BE A WINNER!!



Everyone here did not expect to win. You have to be in it to win it!





MEDSTEAD VILLAGE FETE

SAT, 14TH JULY

A major fund raising event! So keep growing
All plants, excess produce to sell welcomed
Proceeds go to Club funds.....Thank you

