

# PROPAGATION OF AZALEAS

KOHLMONT INC. \$4

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VOLUME #2

## RECOMMENDED TOOLS

PRUNERS, SCISSORS, VEGETABLE PEELER, MEASURING SPOONS, WOODEN BOX SCREEN, WHEEL BARROW, 5 GALLON BUCKET, WATERING CAN, WATER PROOF FELT TIP PEN, PLASTIC LABELS.

## TIME TO CUT & LENGTH

Best to take cuttings toward the end of May or first week in June. The time will vary from year to year depending on the weather. Check the tenderness of the stem. Never take tender cuttings, always cut early in the morning. Place the cuttings in plastic bags, mist, keep on ice until ready to stick.

Cuttings should be 3 to 4 inches long. **1.** Cut the stem on an angle and **2.** wound the stem in one or two areas around the bud nodes with a vegetable peeler. **3.** Pinch out the terminal bud. Reduce the leaves to 3 or 4 at the top of the cutting. **4.** Cut the leaves with scissors to one half or one third. **5.** Next dip the cutting in the solution and in one motion place in the 2" deep rooting box.

## DIPPING SOLUTION

- 3 GALLONS WATER
- 1 TEASPOON CAPTAN
- 1 TBS. BANROT
- 2 TBS. MALATHION
- 2 TBS. KELTHANE

To a bucket add 3 gallons of water. Measure in all four chemicals and stir until in solution. (May keep covered for 2 to 3 weeks.) Before each use, stir vigorously.

## THE ROOTING MIXTURE

Combine 1 part screened peat moss and 2 parts coarse perlite. Mix in deep wheel barrow; add water to saturate. squeeze water out by hand and place in containers.



## CONTAINERS

I prefer to use styrofoam grape containers that measure 19 1/2" long X 13" wide X 5 1/2" deep. Using a Phillips screw driver punch 20-25 holes in the bottom for drainage. Fill the container to 1 3/4" from the top with rooting mixture. Tap the container to settle the mixture, while adding the loose, fluffy rooting mixture. Place 60 cuttings per container, 10 rows of 6 azaleas cuttings in each row.



## AFTER CARE ROOTING TIME

Spray weekly with Captan. Add 1 teaspoon of Captan to 1 gallon of water. Never allow cuttings to dry out. Most cuttings will root in 12 weeks and a few in 8 weeks.

## HARDENING OFF / WINTER

After azaleas have rooted, remove the plastic cover for one hour for 3 days in the afternoon. Then two hours for 3 days and next overnight for 3 days (must be frost free conditions). Keep a close watch on the correct moisture as the cuttings become acclimated to a less saturated environment. Do not over water, especially through the winter.

Keep all cuttings under the plastic tent for the first winter.

## WATERING / ROOTING TENT

Once the container is full and all the plants are labeled by row or by the box, use a watering can and thoroughly wet the cuttings. Place in the rooting tent which has 2" of chipped bark over the layer of black plastic. This mulch should be kept wet to maintain humidity. The sides of the tent are constructed of 2X4 treated pine boards with curved bars attached and braced at the outside base. White 3 mil plastic is pulled over for a moist environment. Place the rooting containers on 2X4 lumber for air to circulate around the containers. Four hundred to five hundred foot-candles of light is needed for proper rooting condition.



Strawberry Delight