



Thursday, July 2, 2009

Propagation - softwood, hardwood, and seeds

Hardwood cuttings are taken in the winter from deciduous plants. This past February, I stuck cuttings of figs, mock orange, forsythia, and a few others. The mock orange was decimated by tent caterpillars after it rooted and has died.

The forsythia and figs need to be potted soon. I might do that today before I go to work.

The method is simple. Take cuttings from dormant plants, dust the bottom end with rooting hormone, stick in a well draining soil (1/2 sand, 1/2 Lowe's cheap topsoil), and wait.



About Me



Tom - 7th Street Cottage

"I have discovered that if we are to flourish as creative beings, if we are to grow into Wholeness, we must bloom wherever we are planted. Right now, you might not have the perfect career, home, or relationship.

Few of us do. But if you have the gift of today, you've got another chance to re-create your circumstances and make them as perfect as it's possible to do with the resources you have." ~Sarah Ban Breathnach

[View my complete profile](#)

About My Garden

- Located in lower central NC
- Built in 1946
- Zone 7b
- Since July 2007
- 1/2 acre lot in the "city"
- Heavily amended clay and stone
- Flowers, Vegetables, Shrubs, and Trees

location, location, location





Softwood cuttings can be done in April and June here in NC. These were stuck 3 weeks ago. All of the hydrangea cuttings rooted. Only a few of the others have rooted, including a beefsteak sucker. They were potted this morning. I'll keep them in the basement under my lights for another couple of weeks. It's too hot and dry to put them outside just yet. I need more roots.

I used the cloner for these, although you can use the baggie method or container method I've used to root gardenias and roses.

[Click to enlarge](#)

Tag Cloud

aero chamber azaleas bathroom bee balm bottom heat brugmansia cherry tomatoes cleaning coreopsis cucumbers daffodils datura dining room dogwoods figs front bed gardenias green **hoophouse** hosta indoor seeds job last frost **living fence** living room luna red hibiscus nicotiana owl peach **perennial bed** petunias pineapple salvia **planting out** poppy potager **propagation** **rain** rudbeckia seeds shasta daisy snow squash **Sunday** sunflowers tea olive **tomatoes** transplant trellis vegetables white bed willow **wintersowing** wordless wednesday yvonne's salvia Zinnia

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Helpful Links

- 2009 Phases of the Moon
- 7th Street Cottage Photos
- A month of best days - Farmer's Almanac
- Basic propagation of plants
- Bees bees bees.



- [Boiling water bath canning](#)
- [Companion Plants](#)
- [Edging a bed - Idaho Style](#)
- [Everything you never wanted to know about composting](#)
- [Farmer's Almanac - Best Planting Days](#)
- [Farmer's Almanac - Winter 2008/9](#)
- [Free Plants - propagation tricks, tips, and advice](#)
- [Gardening by the Moon](#)
- [Greenhouse MegaStore Supplies](#)
- [Guerrilla Gardening - Seed Bombs](#)
- [HDTV Antenna plan](#)
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- [NC Spring & Summer Vegetables](#)
- [NC Vegetable planting schedule](#)
- [okra](#)
- [Origami - seed starting pots from newspaper](#)
- [Popular Mechanics - Adirondack Chair](#)
- [Rope light bottom heat for seed starting and propagation](#)
- [Roses - baggy method of propagation](#)
- [Seed starting - the basics](#)
- [Sourdough Bread](#)
- [The Official Site of Square Foot Gardening and Mel Bartholomew](#)
- [The Ruth Stout Method.](#)
- [The Seed Site](#)
- [Tomato support: Florida weave](#)
- [Value Seeds - \\$0.99 per pack. \\$1.99 shipping.](#)
- [Weather.com - Daily Average Temperatures](#)
- [Weather.com widget](#)
- [Whitewashing Brick](#)



The easiest way to propagate many plants is through seed collection. Wintersowing the seeds is simple. There's a link on the sidebar.

Melampodium seed. I didn't collect these, just tossed them back into the garden where I want more. This works best in areas with no mulch.

[Wintersown.org](#)

• [Wintersown.org](#)

Reading List

- Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening by Louise Riotte
- Great Garden Companions: A Companion-Planting System for a Beautiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden by Sally Jean Cunningham
- In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan
- So You Want to Start a Nursery by Tony Avent
- Southern Living Garden Book - Southeast Edition

Blogroll

•

[Secrets of a Seed Scatterer](#)

2 hours ago

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[A Corner Garden](#)

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[Natural Gardening](#)

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[Annie's Kitchen Garden](#)

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[Our Backyard Life](#)



Forget Me Nots. Again, tossed back into the garden. In another week or so, I'll pull the plants out and shake them along the edges of the beds.

0 hours

ago

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6 hours ago

• [A Gardener in Progress](#)

12 hours

ago

• [Lelo in Nopo](#)

16

hours

ago

• [The Gaudy Garden](#)

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ago

• [FlowerLady's Musings](#)

1 day ago

[Blunders with shoots, blossoms 'n roots](#)

1 day ago

[AmLo Farms](#)

1 day

ago

[Best in Bloom Today](#)

1 day

ago

[Through](#)



Salvia subrotunda. I will be collecting these seeds. This salvia is over 5' tall and has shown no problems with wilt, unlike the salvia splendens (Yvonne's salvia, which I will also collect later).

**the
Looking
Glass**

1 day ago

**compost
in my
shoe**

1 day ago

**Sinfonian's
Square
Foot
Garden**

1 day ago

**Idaho
Small
Goat
Garden**

2 days

ago

**The
Gardens
at
Melissa
Majora a
Honeybee
Sanctuary**

3 days ago

**This
Garden
Is
Illegal**

3 days

ago

**Defining
Your
Home
Garden**

3 days

ago

**A Chef
in the
Garden**

5 days

ago

**Sample
Seeds
Garden**

6 days

ago

**Creative
Soul**

1 week

ago



Gotta Garden

2 weeks

ago

My Back Yard (and Other Places)

2 weeks

ago

Leave Me Alone, I'm Digging

4 weeks

ago

ThinMan's Blog

4 weeks ago

How my garden grows!

5 weeks

ago

An Obsessive/Compulsive plant collector

1 month ago

The ToadShed

3 months

ago

gardening by the seat of my pants

4 months

ago

Show All

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Coreopsis "Mahogany Midget". Seeds collected last week are laying in a coffee filter to dry. This time of year, I have seeds all over the house.



[Contact Me](#)



Seeds collected

- 07.02.09 - Salvia subrotunda
 - 07.02.09 - Salvia "Coral Nymph"
 - 07.02.09 - Cosmos sulphureus
 - 06.29.09 - Bee Balm (petite)
 - 06.26.09 - nicotiana (purple)
 - 06.26.09 - Cosmos sulphureus
 - 06.25.09 - nicotiana sylvestres
 - 06.24.09 - Lunaria - Beth's yard
 - 06.24.09 - Coreopsis "Mahogany Midget"
 - 06.23.09 - Coreopsis "Sunfire"
 - 05.30.09 - Coreopsis "Jethro Tull"
-

Rudbeckia. Seeds were collected from Autumn Colors and wintersown this January.



Monarda didyma.



Blue agastache.



Monarda didyma.



Yvonne's salvia. Over 4' tall and still growing.



Zinnias





Esther's sunflower.



Monarda citriodora 'Lambada'




Coreopsis "Full Moon"



It goes without saying there are others I'm waiting for, like *datura inoxia*.

12:01pm - the figs and forsythia are potted. The figs had only a few roots, but hopefully enough to make it on their own. The soil was bone dry and yet they were still alive. The forsythia had lots of roots. I expect them to make it. I'll plant the forsythia in the new shrub border this fall. The figs may or may not be planted. If they aren't, they'll be traded for other rooted cuttings this winter.

Posted by Tom - 7th Street Cottage at 7/02/2009 10:43:00 AM 4 comments 

Labels: [bee balm](#), [hardwood cuttings](#), [propagation](#), [seeds](#), [softwood cuttings](#)

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Diversity and Inclusion

That's the title of the video we had to watch this week at work. It was a reminder that people are different and no one should be excluded or singled out for any reason. Of course, it focused on physical traits.

In my yard, *Rudbeckia* comes in many shades and colors. I like them all.



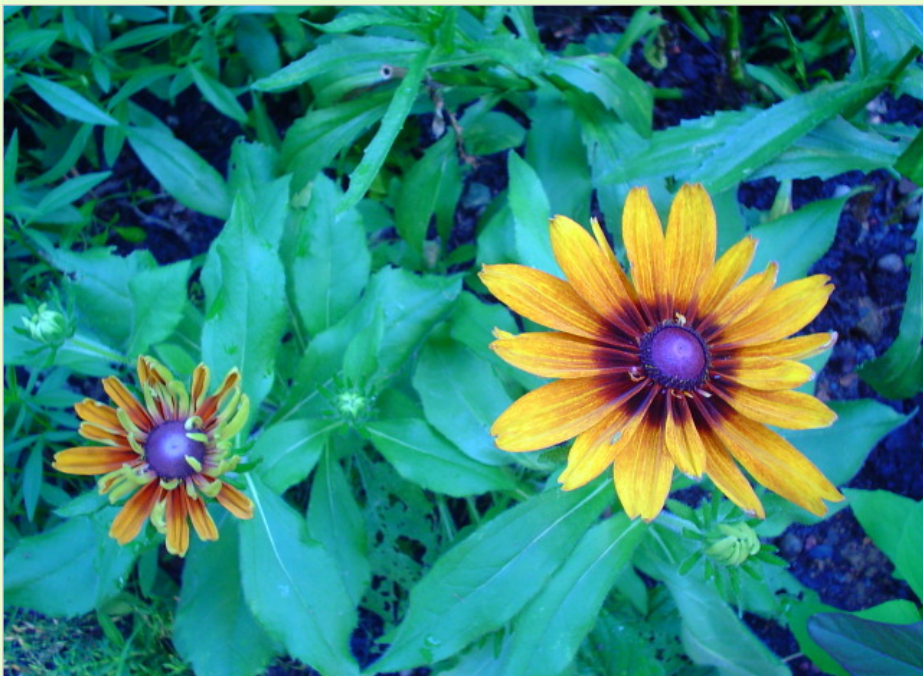
From Thompson and Morgan, we have the new 'Cherry Brandy' Rudbeckia. The claim was it would be red. This is more like the color of dried blood. I'm not thrilled.



On the other end of the spectrum, there's the plain old boring yellow and brown.



In between, there's lots of variety.

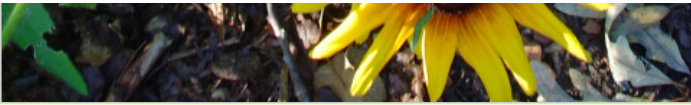













And finally, *Rudbeckia fulgida*. This is a perennial variety. I haven't successfully grown this from seed yet. I collected seed last year mixing it with other "Black Eyed Susan" seed from lots of sources. What I got was *Rudbeckia hirta*. Perhaps my seed was not ripe when collected. Or maybe what I've read is true, it reverts to *hirta* from seed. In any case, it blooms late summer to early fall when all the other rudbeckias are busy dying.



WeatherUnderground is forecasting a 20% chance of thunderstorms this evening. Weather.com is forecasting high winds and increased chance of fire. I'm hoping for the rain instead. It's 66 degrees and sunny. A great morning to be outside, coffee in hand, planning next years garden.

Posted by Tom - 7th Street Cottage at 7/01/2009 08:26:00 AM 7 comments 

Labels: [rudbeckia](#)

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Foxglove

In December, I wintersowed several containers of foxglove. In my mind, I saw hundreds of these spikes with trumpet shaped blooms poking their heads above the mess in the perennial bed. Instead, I got this. One single foxglove plant, about 18" tall. Careful, don't step on it, please.



A new rudbeckia has appeared. This one is nearly 4" across.



The "red" bee balm is fading to a dusty maroon color. The brilliance is gone.





Bee Balm "Lemon Mint" is reblooming after my whacking spell a month ago. I cut it back hard when it flopped due to all the rain.

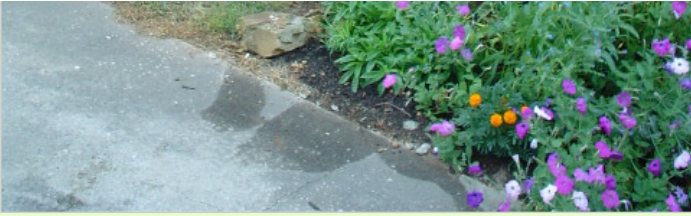


A new sunflower near the birdfeeder.



The arbor in the perennial bed is nearly covered by the cardinal climber. I see buds, but no blooms. This morning the hummingbirds were enjoying Yvonne's salvia.





The front bed is filling in nicely. I'm happy with this area now. Next year it should be much better.



Finally, the future. *Datura inoxia*'s seed pod, also called "thorn apple".



It's 64 and sunny. I put the sprinkler on the potager this morning. At 9am, I'll move it to the sunny side of the perennial bed. We need rain. Low 90s today.

Posted by Tom - 7th Street Cottage at 6/30/2009 08:35:00 AM 7 comments 

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