Forsyth Pots
Alison Johnson
Materials List

- Wide topped plastic pot
- Smaller clay pot (NOT glazed or painted or sealed)
- Plasticine, non-hardening oil-based clay also called Sculpey EZ Shape Modelling clay, Amazon or art shops, Michaels, Ben Franklin even Fred Meyer (NOT Plastilina!!)
- Vermiculite, available at Home Depot or any nursery 1 quart or up to 60 cubic feet
- Paper Towel or coffee filter, needs to allow water through NOT plastic

Taking Cuttings
Soft wood, early in the season often green
Semi Ripe, beginning to become woody
Hardwood, late season, overwinter
Heel Cuttings, includes a 'heel' of the parent plant/stem

Easy/successful (for me)
Fuchsia, Hydrangea macrophylla, Leycesteria, Hylotelephium, Zonal Pelargonium, Salvia, Lavender, Weigela.
*Keep cuttings small *Remove lots of leaves *Keep reservoir filled * Grow on in a shady/sheltered spot…patience.

'Cuttings Through the Year' edited by Joy Spur
Arboretum Foundation Seattle $8.95

ART. IV. *A new Method of striking Cuttings.*
By Mr. ALEXANDER FORSYTH.

THE sketch (*fig.* 98.) represents a new mode of striking cuttings, which I have proved to be far superior to the ordinary practice; and which is so extremely simple, that I think it is likely to be adopted, as well by the amateur cottage matron, with her pinks and wallflowers, as by the professed propagater of valuable exotics. It is as follows: — Take a wide-mouthed 48-sized pot, for example, and crock it in the usual manner with broken tiles, &c.; then take a wide-mouthed *small sixty*, and put a piece of clay in the bottom of it to stop the hole; then place it inside the other, on the top of the crocking, so that the brims of both pots may be on a level. Then fill in the space between the pots with sand, or other propagating soil, according to the nature of the plant about to be propagated; and let the cuttings be inserted in the manner here shown (*fig.* 98.), with their lower extremities against the inner pot. Plunge the pot in a cutting frame, or under a bell or hand-glass, in a shady place out of doors, according to the nature of the cuttings and the season of the year; and let the inner pot be filled and kept full of water.

The advantages to be derived from this method are numerous, and must be evident even to the casual observer; the principal

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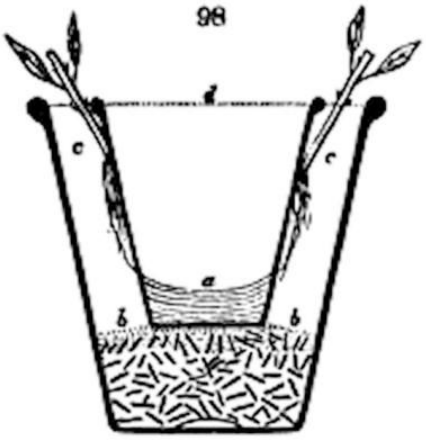


of these are, — the regularity of the supply of moisture, without any chance of saturation; the power of examining the state of the cuttings at any time, without injuring them, by lifting out the inner pot; the superior drainage, so essential in propagating, by having such a thin layer of soil; the roots being placed so near the sides of both pots; and the facility with which the plants, when rooted, can be parted for potting off, by taking out the inner pot, and with a common table-knife, or the like, cutting out every plant with its ball, without the awkward, but often necessary, process of turning the pot upside down to get out the cuttings.

In *fig.* 98. *a* shows the clay stopping of the pot; *b*, the drainage of potsherds, or broken crocks; *c*, the sand or other soil in which the cuttings are inserted; and *d*, the water in the inner pot.

*Oakhill Gardens, June* 8. 1835.

by