

Propagating Roses From Cuttings

One way to preserve roses that are no longer in commerce, also to build your rose inventory in your garden.

Legal Stuff

- **Propagating Roses that have a patent is against the law, but if you just want to add another rose to your garden the rose police will not come after you.**
- **You can look to see if a rose has a patent by checking the Modern Roses or Help Me Find websites, also Rose catalogs.**
- **Patents last for 20 years.**



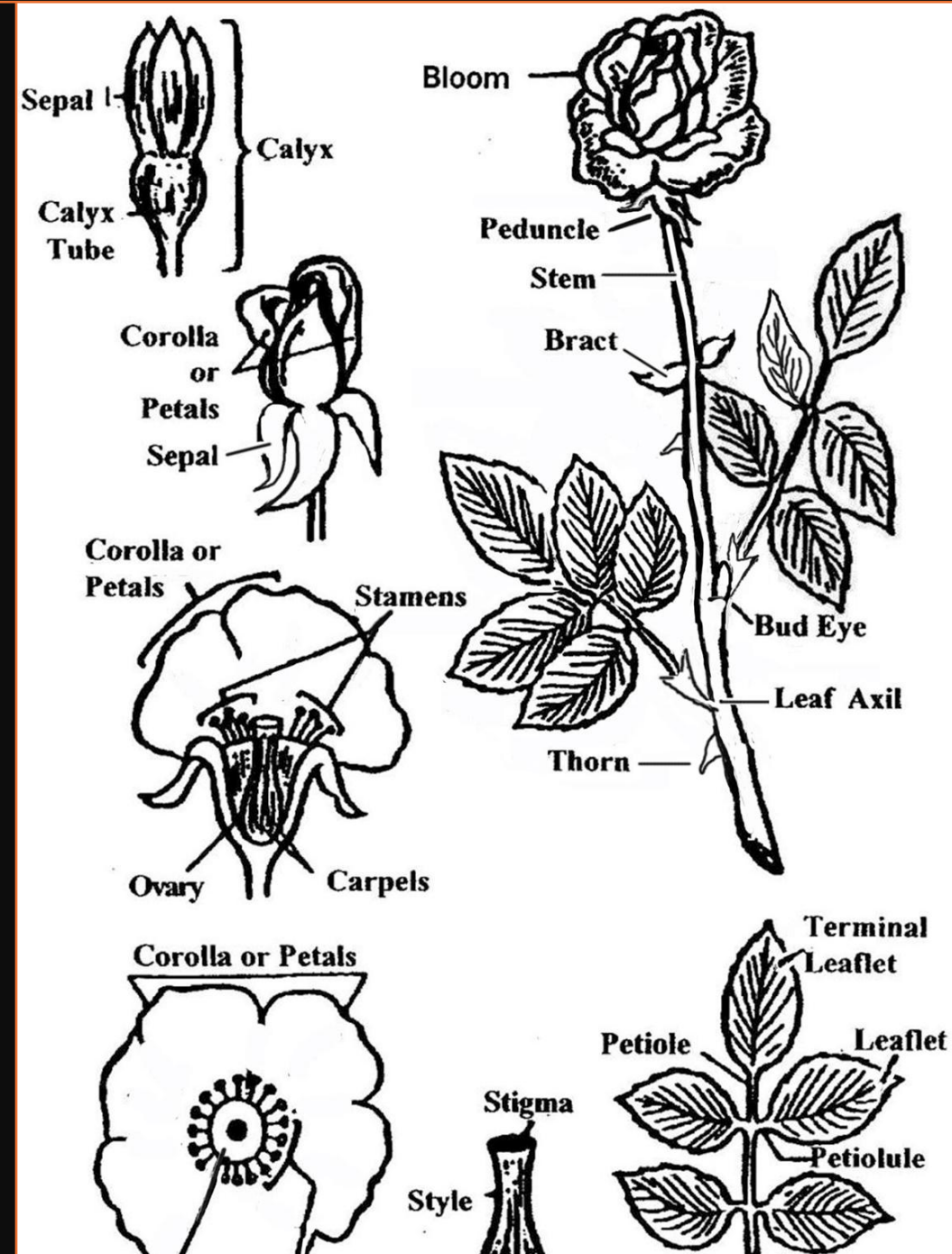
All roses will
root from
cuttings, even
florist roses!



Look for a stem that is past
it's prime, but not a
requirement. Just make sure
the bud eye has not started
growing out yet.



Look for a stem that has a bud 'eye'. A little 'bump' between the stem and leaflet stem.



Good bud eye to
use for starting
a cutting.





Cut off the bloom and stem about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above a set of leaflets that has an 'eye'.



Make a second cut about 6 inches below your first cut. Try to make sure your cut stem has at least 2 'eyes', more is better because that is where the new growth come from.

Prepping your cutting.

Remove all the leaves and prickles (thorns) but leave the top set of leaves. Leaving the top set of leaves will help pull moisture up through the stem.

The best part of using florist roses – they don't have thorns!!!!

With a sharp knife make several cuts at the bottom of the stem and scrape a section of the outer green to expose the pith or white part of the stem. This will show the cambium layer.

The cambium is a layer of actively dividing cells that is responsible for secondary growth in plants and trees.



Put your cutting in a
cup of clean water
while you get
everything ready to
plant your cutting

- **Do not allow the end
of your cutting to dry
out!!!!**

Get a small pot about the size of the bottom of a 2-liter cola bottle. Fill the pot with a course sterile potting mix. I use Lowes Indoor/Outdoor potting mix and add some vermiculite to help with drainage and moisture retention.. Water well and make sure the potting mix is damp all the way to the bottom of the pot.



Get a 2-liter soda bottle and cut the bottom off and leave the top on. Make out a tag to put in the pot to identify the variety of rose and date it was started.



You don't have to use a rooting hormone, but I have found that I have a very high success rate when I do and I like to use Clonex rooting gel.



Take your cutting and dip the bottom in the rooting gel and take a pencil to form a hole in the center of your pot and insert your cutting about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" and pinch the soil together around the cutting and put a small amount of water around stem to seal it in.





Place your 2-liter bottle over your cutting and press down to make an airtight seal. You want to create a little greenhouse to keep the moisture from escaping. Place your tag in the pot, so you can keep track of the variety that you just started.



Set the pot in filtered sunlight, never in direct sunlight. After a few minutes should see condensation on the inside of the bottle and that will let you know you have a good seal. In 4 to 5 weeks, you should see new growth starting from a bud eye. You can take the top off of the bottle, but sure you still have condensation inside the bottle.



When new growth starts coming out at the top of the bottle, you can remove the bottle. I try to do mine at night when the humidity is high or on a rainy day. Very important – keep your new cutting out of direct sunlight and no wind until it has had time to harden off. After a week or two you can set the cutting in direct sunlight but avoid high winds!!!!

My current set-up with cuttings



Congratulations! Before long, you will have another rose bush just like the one you took the cutting from.



Seedling HC25B

‘Contrary Mary’ x ‘Ring of Fire’



Seedlings HC25C & HC25D

‘Contrary Mary’ x ‘Ring of Fire’



Questions?

