



Tips for propagating elms

Germinating elm seed

- The best time of year to collect seed is May, when the green wings around the seed begin to turn brown, but the seed is still on the tree (do not collect from the ground).
- You can plant them in a garden propagator, available from garden centres, or use a tray or pots with polythene as described in the cuttings information below.
- Add compost then add the seeds, covering with about 1cm of compost. Keep the compost moist, but do not let them stand in water.
- Leave in a sunny spot and once the seedlings have come through and reached a few centimetres in height dig them out with a spoon and plant them in small pots. Pot them up into larger pots when the roots reach through the bottom.

Growing on cuttings

- Some elms can be difficult to propagate from seed but cuttings can be taken.
- In May or early June you can take new growth (epicormic) cuttings from where they leave the branch or trunk. If possible, leave a small heel of bark attached to give them a better chance of rooting.
- If you can't find epicormic growth you can also take a cutting about 15cm long from the end of a twig from last season's growth and treat them in the same way.
- Dip the cuttings into a rooting hormone, then insert cuttings 3-4cm deep in compost and keep moist but not too wet. You can use small pots about 5cm deep, a tray with holes in the base, or a propagator available from garden centres.
- If you are using a tray or pots, cover the cuttings with thin polythene sheeting, white if available. A carrier bag can be used and closed around them to retain moisture, but perforate the bases of the bags so the cuttings do not stand in water.
- Keep warm but out of direct sunlight – under the greenhouse bench should be suitable provided it is not too dark.
- Lightly mist them 2-3 times per day with a hand sprayer. Remove any dead cuttings.
- Once the cuttings have rooted, after about 2 months, harden them by perforating the sheeting or bag to allow ventilation, and moving to cooler conditions.

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