



APPLEWOOD ACRES
GARDENING & LANDSCAPING
905-281-3111
www.applewoodacres.org

Applewood Acres Gardening & Landscaping Recommendations On:

How To Root Red Sugar Maples

By Richard Brzakala,
Owner Applewood Acres Gardening & Landscaping/Applewood Property Management



If your tree is damaged beyond saving or you are looking to save money by purchasing a new maple Applewood Acres recommends the following:

1. Cut several pieces 6 to 8 inches long from the ends of small branches. Take several cuttings to allow a margin for failure. Immediately put the cuttings in a plastic bag with a damp paper towel to stay moist.

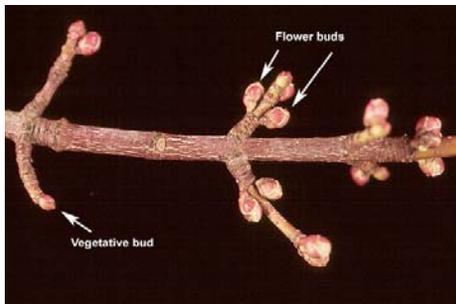


2. Get some rooting hormone from the garden center. It will be a pink powder in a jar.

Applewood Acres Gardening suggest using only healthy, firm wooded stock, with mature leaves, that have either a single or multiple nodes
Dipping the stock into a 5000 ppm (parts per million) IBA in 50% alcohol, 50/50 peat/perlite
Apply mist evenly and without fail
Cuttings should root in three to five weeks.

IBA is a synthetic rooting compound known as indolebutyric acid that stimulates the formation of adventitious roots, which is what you want to do. This is diluted in alcohol -- the rubbing kind, not the drinking -- and the stump ends are dipped into the solution prior to sticking into the rooting medium.

The use of bottom heat always helps speed things along in so far as root growth, so we would recommend this as well.



3. Mix equal parts of sand and peat moss to make a rooting medium. Excellent drainage is essential or the cuttings will rot before they root. Some people root them in straight sand or vermiculite.
4. Fill small pots, about 3 to 4 inches in diameter, with the medium. Make sure that each pot has plenty of holes so water can drain away freely.
5. Strip all but 1 or 2 sets of leaves from a cutting. Trim off 1/2 inch from the base to make a fresh-cut surface. Dip the cut end in the jar of rooting hormone and then stick it about 1 inch deep in a pot of rooting medium. Repeat for each cutting. Water the pots.
6. Set the pots outdoors in a shaded area. Keep the medium moist; you may have to water more than once a day.
7. When frost threatens, move the pots for the winter into a place such as an unheated garage where they will be cool but will not freeze.
8. In spring, move them back out to a shady area and check to see if they have rooted by gently tugging on the stem. A cutting with roots will not pull out easily.
9. When cuttings have rooted, choose the best two or three and plant them in 1-gallon or larger pots in a soil with ample organic matter and a slow-release organic fertilizer (do not use more than the directions say). Grow the cuttings in the large pots for another year, until they start putting on new leaves.

10. In spring, pick the best plant and choose a site appropriate for the species. Allow for the ultimate size of the tree; in 50 years, a tiny sapling of some species can be 50 feet tall and wide. Plant the cutting at the same level as it was in the pot and water it consistently for the first year.

Please note that the above method described above is not guaranteed and that cuttings from mature trees do not root as reliably as cuttings from young trees.