



APRIL 22, 2010



## THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA BATON ROUGE UNIT

[www.brherbs.com](http://www.brherbs.com)

MISSION: The Herb Society of America is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community.

VOLUME III, NUMBER 5

## PLANT PROPAGATION

*Presented by members of The Baton Rouge Unit of The Herb Society of America*

### What Is Plant

**Propagation?** You may be wondering what is plant propagation? Plant propagation is the process of multiplying plants. The first thing to do BEFORE propagating is to prepare the pots of soil. Cuttings must be kept moist to form roots. The best way to keep plants moist is with SOIL POLYMERS. This was researched by a Master Gardener who makes living wreaths. HSABR has these soil polymers (*see information article on back*).

### Cuttings plant propagation techniques

Cuttings involve rooting a piece of the parent plant, such as a leaf, tip, stem, or root. Both herbaceous and woody plants can be propagated through cuttings. Generally, cuttings from herbaceous plants can be taken anytime.

Softwood cuttings are best taken in late spring to early summer, while hardwood cuttings should be taken when plants are dormant during fall and winter. Most cuttings should be around 3-6 inches long with diagonal cuts. Any lower leaves should be removed, and the cuttings should be placed in a growing medium (sand, soil, water, or peat and perlite) after being dipped in rooting hormone, which is optional but recommended. These should then be given bright, indirect light. Root cuttings can be kept in the dark. Rooting can take anywhere from a few days to several months.

### Division plant propagation techniques

Division involves breaking up clumps of plants to form new ones. These are usually dug up from the ground or done during repotting container plants.



Generally, spring and summer-flowering plants are divided in fall while the opposite is true of fall-flowering varieties, which takes place in spring.

When dividing plants, each section should contain roots, bulbs, or tubers in order for the plant to thrive. These can be replanted in the ground or in containers.

### From The Desk of Rita:

**IMPORTANT! Grow Your Own Herbs, buy plants from HSABR and the money stays here to put on programs like this.**

*The Baton Rouge Herb Study Group, organized in 1989, became the Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America, Inc. in October 1991.*

### Officers:

*Rita Salman, Chairperson*

*Lori Mann, Vice-Chairperson*

*Kathy Mullin, Treasurer*

*Sondra Thornhill, Secretary*

The Baton Rouge Unit of the Herb Society of America's meetings are open to the public. There is a \$3 fee for non-members and includes handouts and a free plant. Members attend free. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at the Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd. at 7:00 PM.

2010

May 27 - LA Culinary Institute

September 23 - Cayenne - Hot Enough For You?

October 28 - Citrus-Orange You Smart!

The HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. was founded in 1933 for the purpose of furthering the knowledge and use of herbs.

\*The BR Garden Center is located at 7950 Independence Blvd.

QUESTIONS: Rita Salman, 225-291-5684, [ritasalman@cox.net](mailto:ritasalman@cox.net)

## Keeping a Garden Record

A garden record can be a valuable aid for the present season and also for years to come. At the beginning of the gardening year, start a small notebook and record the garden dimensions, exposure and planting plan. Enter the frost dates, when the soil was first worked, when each herb first bloomed, and when each herb was harvested through the season. Note when and where seeds and plants were purchased and what kinds of fertilizer were used, if any. As these records accumulate over the years, they also become an interesting diary of what has been accomplished. If such extensive record keeping is not your style, jot short notes on your calendar and save these for reference.



## HERB SOCIETY BOOKS:

- The Herb Society of America New Encyclopedia of Herbs & Their Uses, by Deni Brown
- The Herb Society of America's Essential Guide to Growing and Cooking with Herbs, edited by Katherine K. Schlosser
- Hill, Madalene, and Gwen Barclay. *Southern Herb Growing*. Fredericksburg, TX: Shearer Publishing, 1987

## Seed Startings

1. Buy or Save seeds from your plants.
2. Seed Catalogues
  - a. Richters-Link to from [www.brherbs.com](http://www.brherbs.com) and we get a % of sales
  - b. Nichols Garden Nursery-  
<http://www.nicholsgardennursery.com>
  - c. Renee's Seeds-  
<http://www.reneesgarden.com>
  - d. Well-Sweep Herb Catalogue-  
<http://www.wellsweep.com> (Madalene Hill's Favorite)
  - e. Kitazawa Seed Catalogue-Asian Vegetable Seeds (92 years old)
  - f. John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds
  - g. Cooks Garden-  
<http://www.cooksgarden.com>
  - h. Baker Creek Farms Heirloom Seeds
  - i. Seeds of Change-100% Certified Organic Seeds
  - j. Johnny's Seeds
  - k. Parks Seeds
3. Soil Polymers
4. Potting Soil
5. Containers
6. Mini-greenhouses (3 liter soda bottles with bottom cut off) (Newspaper Bags)
7. Labels or tags



## SOIL POLYMERS

- ❖ Promote Root Development
- ❖ Create Healthier, Greener & Fuller Plants
- ❖ Reduce Watering
- ❖ Shrink as water is absorbed
- ❖ Shrink and SWELL repeatedly
- ❖ NON-TOXIC
- ❖ Works for YEARS

Directions: Add **ONE TABLESPOON** of dry polymers to **ONE GALLON OF RAIN WATER**. Rain Water works BEST! Soak polymers overnight. Mix hydrated polymers with soil at the roots of plant to be most effective.

*"Whenever I am planting, I put soil polymers in the ground. Especially for tomatoes, basil, eggplant, okra and other summer veggies. Plants are not productive when the roots get dry. During our hot summer months, the polymers help to keep a moist environment on the roots of plants. Tomatoes suffer the most from drying out or over watering."*  
Rita Salman

Raise money for your favorite charity or school just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch - [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) (search for Herb Society of America in Kirtland, OH).