

Growing Stock Clover Plants

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Requirements:

Clean greenhouse with heating and lights.

Small plants are best on capillary matting (stops them drying out). They must not be too wet or under very bright lights/sunlight.

Large pots are best on a wire mesh bench (stops roots growing into whatever is under the pot, helps keep slug numbers down). They must not get too dry (they use a lot of water).

Our plants are in two different sections of the greenhouse. Lights hang from the roof. Sticky yellow fly traps keep some pests away. The floor is kept clean and thoroughly cleaned once per month. We cut all flowers off the clover plants, because pests hide in them.

We treat the compost with a systemic insecticide (imidachloprid) to control thrips and sciarid flies. This means regulations for disposing of used compost when old plants are thrown away.



Taking Cuttings

Requirements:

Clean sharp cutting implement - we use a scalpel, with a new blade for each day of cutting. Fat, healthy stolons (left picture) are more likely to succeed than thin, woody stolons (right picture). Only use a healthy plant. Send each site cuttings from many plants, rather than all from the same plant.



Cut off a stolon, with at least 4 leaf nodes



Cut off all the leaves and petioles, including the terminal leaf and any flower buds. Wash the cuttings in clean water. Plant the cuttings horizontally in a small pot of compost (approximately 1 litre pot). Cover all except the terminal bud with compost and water. Keep the plants damp but not wet.



Plants should soon grow new leaves. Remove any flowers as they appear. This picture is after establishing for less than two weeks.



When the plants are bigger, transfer to larger (approximately 15 litre) pots, 2 plants per pot. Do not let the plants get too big. Cut back to about 7 cm and nothing hanging outside the pot regularly to ensure fresh and healthy growth. Remove dead and unhealthy leaves. Keep removing flowers. Approximately every six months the plants get too big, and need to be replaced using fresh material (cuttings from the big plants). This plant is too unhealthy and soon to be thrown away.

