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Moving Shrubs and Taking Cuttings

Moving Shrubs will undoubtedly cause them stress so careful moving is essential and taking cuttings or layers will provide some insurance should the move not be successful.

Taking cuttings to propagate hardy evergreen shrubs

Laurus nobilis, *Viburnum* and *Eunonymus europaeus* are hardy evergreen shrubs that can be propagated by taking 10cm long heel cuttings from sideshoots and inserted into pots placed in a cold frame in mid to late summer.

Take the side shoots with a heel – the older part of the wood and trim any whisker growth from around the heel, dip each cutting base into hormone rooting powder and insert them 1 – 2 inches deep in pots containing equal parts moist peat and sharp sand, firm and water and place in cold frame.

Layering

Viburnum could be layered by selecting a healthy low growing vigorous shoot that is up to 2 years old, form a shallow trench that slopes to 3 – 6in deep at its lowest point, 9 – 18 ins from the shoot's tip, Lower the shoot into the depression and bend its tip upright, wound the stem, either by making a tongues cut at the point of the bend or by cutting halfway around the stem and removing the bark, use a piece of bendy wire or a wooden peg to hold the stem in the ground, firm soil over the stem so that its surface is level, insert a bamboo cane and tie the shoot to it to hold it secure and upright, when new growth appears on the layered shoot, remove the soil, sever the shoot from the parent and plant into a nursery bed or directly into a border.

Moving shrubs

Large shrubs and trees, particularly with thick roots, need preparing a year before they are moved, trenching all round the root ball in autumn/winter and severing its large roots will stimulate vigorous new feeder roots to help the re establish successfully. Mark out the proposed root ball then dig a trench just outside this line about 30 cms wide and two spade depths deep. Slightly undercut the root ball if possible cut any thick roots you meet, using secateurs a saw or sharp spade, refill the trench with sharp sand or the original soil with plenty of organic matter or tree planting compost. At moving time, start digging at the outer edge of the



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trench, loosen the root ball and carefully reduce it in size trimming back to the new roots.

Lifting and moving young shrubs

Prune out about third and tie in to allow clear access to root area, ensure the ground is thoroughly moist and cut around the plant with a spade in a vertical position. Continue all around then lever the spade 45 degrees, using secateurs, trim back any broken or damaged roots and sever main roots below the plant. (Do not trim any thin feeder roots) Lift the plant onto sackings or tarpaulin, move plant to level ground and not in full sun and wrap the root ball to protect it until the new home is ready, re plant at the same depth in the soil, backfill, firm and water. Spread organic mulch over the area to conserve water and keep watering during dry spells, top dress with fertilizer for first summer or two.