

ROSE ROOTING

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Traditional methods for commercial rose propagation can be speeded up by carrying out the grafting and rootstock

rooting operations simultaneously. This is the conclusion from work carried out at Wageningen in Holland, and re-

ported by P.A. van del Pol and A. Breukelaar in *Scientia Horticulturae*.

The technique developed at Wageningen involves grafting a piece of scion stem with a single dormant bud onto a length of rootstock internode, which is rooted during the period when the scion graft is becoming established. Under optimum conditions both operations are complete within three weeks, and the grafted plant can then be moved on.

Using *Indica Major* as the rootstock, it has been shown that the best results are achieved with mature internode sections about 6 to 8 mm in diameter. It is important that there should be no buds on the rootstock section, otherwise suckering will take place. Rooting was best if the sections were stored for three weeks at 4C before use, and pre-heated with IBA at 5000 mg per litre. A comparison with *Indica Major* and *Inermis* showed that the former gave better results with the cultivar Cocktail 80, while *Inermis* was better for Motrea.