

How to Root Rosemary and Woody Herb Cuttings

Herb Stem Cutting & Rooting Printable Checklist (PDF)

Reference Guide: <https://plantogrove.com/garden/how-to-root-rosemary-cuttings> | Keyword: HERBROOT

KEY GARDENING FACTS

- Flexible green or semi-woody new shoots root much more reliably than old, dark brown woody stems.
- Stripping leaves from the bottom third of the stem prevents buried needles from rotting in damp rooting mix.
- A coarse, airy mix (such as perlite blended with coco coir or potting mix) keeps oxygen around the cut stem base.

STEP-BY-STEP CHECKLIST

[] Step 1: Cut 4-Inch Non-Flowering Stems in the Morning

Use clean, sharp snips to cut 4-inch tips of flexible new growth in the morning when the plant is well hydrated. Make the bottom cut just below a leaf node.

[] Step 2: Remove Leaves from the Bottom 1.5 Inches

Carefully snip or pinch the needles off the lower third of each cutting without tearing the stem bark.

[] Step 3: Insert into Damp Perlite & Coir Mix

Moisten a mix of roughly half perlite and half coco coir or seed-starting mix. Poke a hole with a pencil, dip the stem base in rooting hormone powder if desired, and firm the mix gently around the stem.

[] Step 4: Keep in Bright Indirect Light Until New Top Growth Appears

Place the pot in bright indirect light (out of harsh midday sun) and keep the mix lightly moist-never soggy-for 3 to 4 weeks until gentle resistance confirms new roots.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- * Avoid sealing rosemary under a tight plastic dome with no airflow; stagnant damp air quickly causes mold on rosemary needles.
- * Wait to apply fertilizer until the rooted cuttings are potted into regular potting soil.

REGIONAL & SEASONAL NOTES

Cold-Winter Climates: Take cuttings in late summer from outdoor herb plants so you can overwinter young rooted plants on a sunny indoor windowsill.

Mild-Winter Climates: Take cuttings in late spring after flowering finishes or in early fall.