

Part 4

OTHER USEFUL INFO ...

Plants for free

Some fruits are easy to propagate, and this can save you a lot of money. *Make sure you propagate from a healthy plant!*

Grafting and budding

These are the methods for propagating most fruit trees, but they are fairly tricky. Find a local workshop to get some experience with them, or check out the instructions on these websites:

www.sces.org.nz/pmwiki.php/Content/Grafting

www.sces.org.nz/pmwiki.php/Content/TakingCuttingsFromOldVarieties

Growing from seed

This is not a good method for most fruits, as the 'offspring' often aren't as good as the 'parent'.

Also, they can take several years to bear fruit, and for all that time you won't know whether the fruit is any good! Cape Goosberry and Passionfruit are the exceptions.

Easy and reliable methods

Instructions for the easiest propagation methods are in the section 'Part 3 – Essential Plant Info', under the heading of the fruits for which they are suitable.

Examples:

- *Runners* – strawberry
- *Layering* – blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry
- *Suckers* – raspberry.

Propagating by hardwood cuttings

	Blackcurrant	Blueberry	Fig	Gooseberry	Grape	White/Redcurrant
Best time	Autumn	Midwinter	Autumn or winter	Autumn	Midautumn	Autumn
Cutting length	20–30cm	10–15cm	20–30cm (1–2cm thick)	30–38cm	Stem section with 3 buds	30–38cm
Preparing the cutting	Leave all buds on the stem, but remove all leaves	Use the bottom 2/3 of strong shoots of the previous season's growth	Choose stems with some 2-year-old wood at the base	Leave all buds on the stem, and the top 2 leaves	Choose stems that are just thicker than a pencil	Remove all but the top 4 or 5 buds, and all leaves
Planting	Insert upright in a trench or pot, leaving 2 buds showing	Insert upright in a pot, leaving 1–2 buds showing	Insert upright in a pot, leaving a few buds showing	Insert upright in a pot, to half its length	Insert upright in a pot, leaving the top bud showing	Insert upright in a pot, to half its length
What to expect	Should have roots and 3 or 4 good stems after 1 year	Should be ready to plant out after 1 year	Can take more than a year to develop a good root system	Should be ready to plant out after 1 year	Pot up after leaves and roots form in summer, plant out next winter	Should be ready to plant out after 1 year