

Morning Glory bush/tree (*Ipomoea Carnea*) Un-rooted Cuttings Planting instructions

It is **CRITICAL** THAT YOU DO NOT OVER WATER THESE CUTTINGS!

You may plant your cuttings **DIRECTLY IN THE GROUND** where you want them to grow or in containers. In either case, make sure the soil is **SANDY** and **WELL DRAINING**. If you are using a store-bought potting mix, you should add vermiculite, sawdust or coarse sand to the mix to make it drain better. They should be in part to mostly sun for best blooms; I've found they do best with mid-day shade but sun in the mornings and/or afternoons. To plant in the ground: dig a hole that is deep enough to place $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cutting in the ground and is about 6" – 8" across. If your soil is very powdery dry, run some water in the bottom of the hole. Place your cutting in the ground so that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of it is above ground and $\frac{1}{2}$ underground. Begin to fill in the hole with the soil (sand) that you removed; if your soil is very dry, water in as you fill the hole up so that the cutting is surrounded by damp, sandy soil. Be sure to get all the air pockets out as you go and firm the soil to the cutting so there is good contact between the two. If rooting in a container, place as much of the stem (up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of it) under the soil line and firm the soil around the stem; I find that 5 gallon buckets with drain holes drilled in the bottom work well for rooting these cuttings and you can put several per bucket. Follow the same steps as for rooting in the ground (firm soil around the stem, make sure all air pockets are out, etc.). You may use Rootone or other rooting hormone on your cuttings, but it is generally not necessary.

With sandy, well draining soil, you should water your cuttings once a day (I suggest in the evening), but no more. Don't let water stand; if they stay too wet, they will rot rather than root. Within a couple of weeks you should see new growth beginning on your cuttings. If the stem begins to turn brown (especially at the soil line), it is likely that your cutting has been overwatered or is in too damp a place and is rotting. Please trust me when I say these cannot handle a lot of water or damp soil. After they are rooted and established, average water is sufficient.

I plant these in groups for best effect, but they can each be planted on its own, as well. Keep in mind these plants will grow over 10' high and often the branches will droop or hang down on the ground due to the weight of the blooms. You may want to plant them near a fence, wall, trellis, or light pole if you want to support them and keep them up. If you live in an area where these are perennials (zone 9b and warmer), they will die back with a frost/freeze, but will return from the roots in subsequent years and be even larger than before.