

Teucrium fruticans



Multiplying the Mediterranean Magic: Propagating Your Teucrium Fruticans

The *Teucrium fruticans*, also known as the tree germander or shrubby germander, is a Mediterranean marvel. This evergreen shrub with its silvery foliage and delicate lavender-blue flowers adds a touch of elegance and fragrance to any garden. But what if you want to replicate this beauty without constantly buying new plants? Propagation is the answer, and thankfully, *Teucrium fruticans* is surprisingly easy to multiply.

Here's your comprehensive guide to propagating this beautiful shrub:

Two Techniques, One Goal:

Two main methods work wonders for propagating *Teucrium fruticans*:

1. **Cuttings (Semi-Hardwood Cuttings):** This method involves

taking a cutting from a healthy, mature plant and encouraging it to develop roots.

- **Timing is Key:** The optimal time for taking cuttings is late summer or early fall, when new growth has hardened slightly but is still flexible.
- **The Right Cut:** Select healthy stems that are not flowering and make a clean cut just below a leaf node. Aim for a cutting that is around 4-6 inches long.
- **Prepare and Plant:** Remove leaves from the lower third of the cutting. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone powder (optional but beneficial) and plant it in a well-draining potting mix.
- **Create Humidity:** Cover the pot with a plastic bag or use a propagator to maintain high humidity and promote root development.
- **Patience is a Virtue:** Keep the cutting in a warm, bright location out of direct sunlight. It may take several weeks for roots to develop. Once the cutting shows new growth, you'll know it has successfully rooted.

2. **Layering:** This method involves encouraging roots to grow on a stem while it is still attached to the parent plant.

- **Select a Branch:** Choose a low-growing, flexible stem on the *Teucrium fruticans*.
- **Wound and Bury:** Lightly wound the underside of the stem by scraping a small section of bark. Bend the stem gently and bury the wounded portion in the soil, securing it with a landscape pin or rock.
- **Time and Patience:** Keep the soil consistently moist. In a few months, roots should develop from the wounded area. You can then cut the newly rooted stem from the parent plant and transplant

it.

Caring for Your New Propagations:

- **Potting Up:** Once your cuttings or layers have developed a healthy root system, transplant them into individual pots. Use a well-draining potting mix.
- **Sunlight and Water:** Place the young plants in a bright location, gradually acclimating them to full sun. Water regularly, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings.
- **Fertilize for Growth:** Feed your new [Teucrium fruticans plants](#) with a balanced liquid fertilizer every few weeks during the growing season (spring and summer).

Enjoy the Rewards:

Propagating *Teucrium fruticans* is a rewarding experience that allows you to expand your garden with minimal cost. With a little patience and the right techniques, you can soon enjoy a flourishing collection of these beautiful shrubs, each a testament to your gardening prowess. So, get those cuttings going and multiply the Mediterranean magic in your own backyard!