

## JAK-PROPAGATION BY SHOOTS

N.B. Abeysinghe,  
Asst. Director of Agriculture, Kegalle.

The only known method of vegetative propagation of jak at present is bud-grafting. Shoots have been successfully rooted by the method described below:-

### Materials needed:

Tubular polythene film - gauge 150 (20 cm. wide, 60 to 80 cm long).  
Stick 1 cm thick, 40 to 50 cm. long.  
Thin G.I. wire, pieces 10 cm. long.  
Potting mixture made up of loamy soil and cattle manure or compost (in equal parts)  
Jak shoots from a selected mother tree.

### Selection of shoots:

Select healthy fast-growing water shoots from selected mother plant. A shoot should have only 3 to 5 leaves.

### Removing water shoot from mother tree:

Use a heavy sharp knife. Cut the shoot with the heel in one clear cut. Do not damage the heel. If shoots have to be transported over a time of more than a few minutes put shoots in a polythene bag, sprinkle a little water into the bag and tie to make it air tight.

### Potting the jak shoot:

Tie up or seal one end of the piece of polythene film.  
Put in potting mixture to a height of 20 cm in the polythene bag. The potting mixture should be moistened to field capacity before putting into bag.  
Press fairly well.  
Plant jak shoot in soil in the bag at a depth of 3 to 4 cm. and press the soil well.  
Push the stick into the soil 3 to 4 cm. away from the jak shoot. The tip of the stick should be 8 cm above the top leaf of the jak shoot.

Tie up the bag to be air tight slightly above the stick with wire.

Keep potted shoot in medium shade.

#### Hardening of Rooted shoots:

Rooting will take place in two months.

After one new leaf has appeared and turned dark green open top end of bag, blow into bag and tie up. Repeat three to four times at three-day intervals.

After that leave the bag open for 30 minutes each day and tie up. Do this for 4 or 5 days. Increase the time the bag is kept open to 2 hours each day for 3 days. If shoot does not wither keep the bag open for a few days before transplanting. Watering must be done as and when required.

### THE LAW OF LEARNING

Any connection, nervous or mental, which has once been made, tends to recur.

The strength of that tendency depends upon the INTENSITY, FREQUENCY, and RECENCY of the connection in past experience.