

File 11 - Propagation by cutting

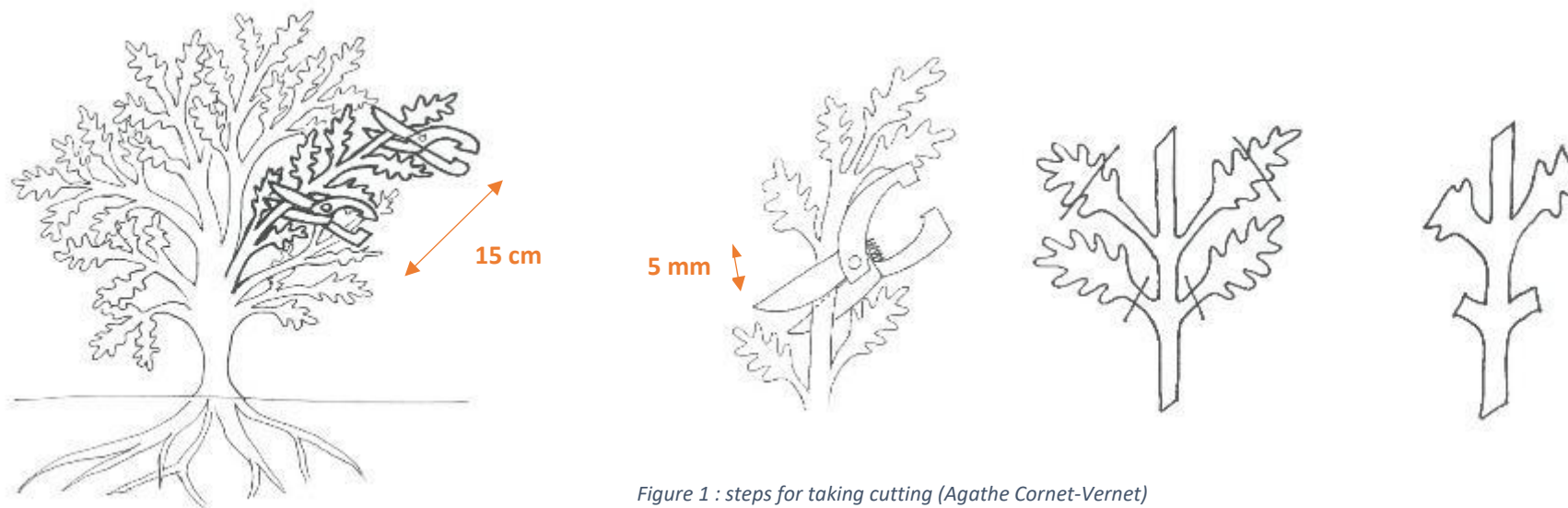
To be successful, this multiplication technique should be carried out during the rainy season or when the air is very humid.

Selection of plants for propagation: save the nicest and most productive plants; do not use plants that are prone to pests and disease.

How to take a cutting:

- Choose a long stem.
- Remove the tender, green tip growth and reserve for drying.
- Cut a 15cm length of semi-ligneous stem (one hand's length, semi-woody stem, starting to form ridges and turn brown) using a sloping cut 5mm under a leaf node (point where leaf is attached to stem).
- Remove lower leaves from cutting.
- Cut the top 2 leaves in half.

IMPORTANT : all cuts must be made with a sharp, clean, disinfected and dry tool!



Rooting:

- Plant the cutting 10 cm deep into the ground or a pot (use same soil mix as for seedbed) **OR** in a glass of water.
- Cover with transparent plastic sheeting, plastic bottle, cloche or frame in the dry season to maintain a warm and humid atmosphere.
- Keep out of direct sunlight for the first 4 weeks.
- Water cuttings and spray leaves with water every day to keep moist. Adjust watering according to rainfall and to avoid rotting.

Organic hormone rooting powder can be used to accelerate root development and increase success rate. A cold decoction of willow leaves over several days releases salicylic acid which can have the same properties as IBA indole butyric acid.

1 *Artemisia afra* plant = 250 cuttings / year!

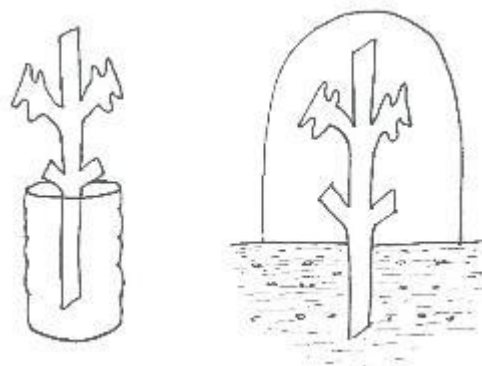


Figure 2 : cutting planted in small pot and open ground (Agathe Cornet-Vernet)