

## File 12 - Propagation by layering

This propagation technique is to be carried out with *Artemisia afra*. It is not particularly useful for *Artemisia annua* which is an annual plant.

Layered shoots are encouraged to form roots while still attached to the parent plant.

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

### How to layer plants:

- Choose a flexible young stem that can be bent down to ground level (top stems can be used if long enough).
- Remove leaves from the area of the stem to be planted so as to promote root development.
- Clear any mulch, make a shallow trench a few centimetres deep, cover the stem with soil and firm in, leaving the shoot tip to point up.
- Secure the buried part of the stem in place with a small arch or two pieces of wood planted crosswise in the ground.
- Stake the shoot tip so it grows upwards.
- Water regularly around the buried part of the stem.
- Wait one to one and a half months.

### Transplanting the layer:

- Remove the pieces of wood.
- Gently dig to uncover the buried stem and check for presence of roots.
- Cut the buried stem to separate the new plant with its new roots from the parent plant.
- Remove the new plant taking as much soil as possible around its roots to promote regrowth.

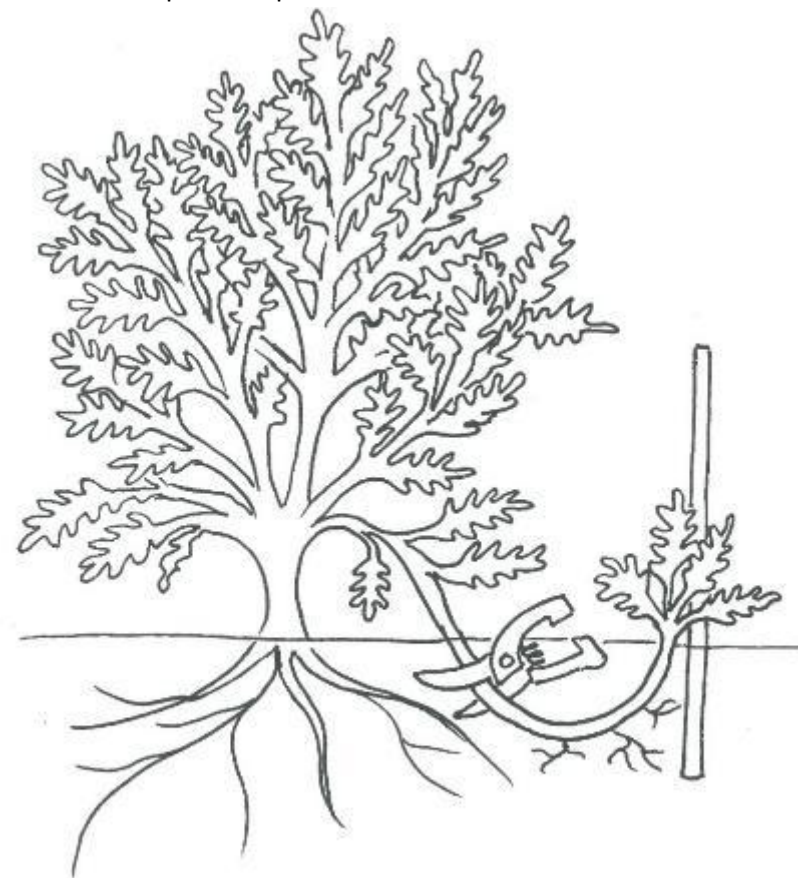


Figure 1 : *Artemisia afra* layering (Agathe Cornet-Vernet)

- Transplant at least 2 m away from the parent plant in watered, compost-enriched soil. (See: Cultivation Manual, transplantation).
- Water abundantly every day to keep plants moist. Adjust watering during the rainy season.

It is also possible to layer the stem directly in a pot with soil; this is a highly practical and effective technique if you want to have plants to give in pots.

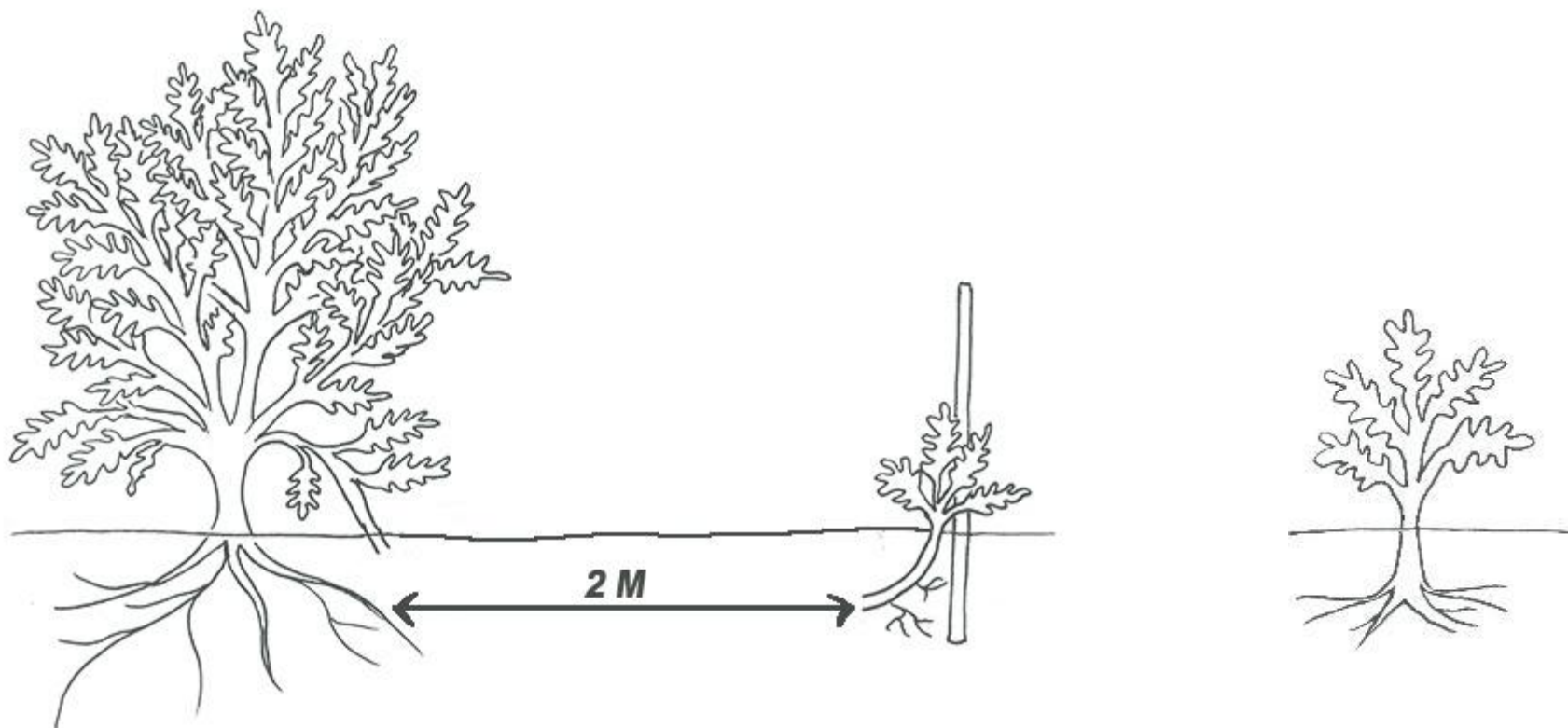


Figure 2 : separation of the plant obtained by layering (Agathe Cornet-Vernet)