



Coastal
Foodways

DIY WILLOW ROOTING SOLUTION

WHAT IS ROOTING SOLUTION?

A rooting solution is used to increase the success rate of plants grown from cuttings by stimulating root growth. You can purchase commercial rooting solutions in powder form, but there are lots of great DIY options you can make at home!

HOW DOES WILLOW WORK?

Willow has two natural properties – salicylic acid and indolebutyric acid – which both enhance root growth. When you infuse willow in water, those properties leach into the water to provide beneficial effects for your cuttings!

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- A handful of willow twigs
- *New shoots are best!
- A mason jar
- Boiling water

WHAT'S THE METHOD?

Gather a handful of fresh willow shoots, then strip off the leaves and cut the shoots into 1" sections. Pack the sections into a jar and cover with boiling water.

Let the willow steep for 1-3 days in natural light, then strain the shoots out of the water.

HOW DO YOU USE THE SOLUTION?

When you're ready to plant your cuttings, soak them for several hours (or overnight) in a 50/50 mix of willow rooting solution + fresh water. Then, plant your cuttings as you normally would. When it's time to water your cuttings, water them with the leftover rooting solution + water mix.

This will stimulate root growth in your cuttings and can boost your success rate significantly!

MORE INFORMATION

- Willow rooting solution works well for all cuttings, but especially those with woody stems
- You can make large batches of willow rooting solution in the spring and freeze it in ice cubes to defrost and use throughout the year as needed
- For more information on natural rooting hormones, check out Preparedness Mama on [7 Ways to Make Natural Rooting Hormone!](#)