

## Methods of potting and repotting

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**Potting:** Potting refer to transferring of plants from seedbed and planting them in pots containing soil mixture.

Select a well-burnt pot giving metallic sound. Place a large crock to a 3-5 cm sized depending upon the size of pot. This forms the drainage layer. Finally, the crocks are covered with a 1.25 to 2.5 cm. layer of coarse sand or dried leaves about 6 cm. thick to prevent washing away of fine soil to the drainage hole or clogging it. Then fill the pot firmly with soil mixture leaving a 1.5 cm. of space is left on the top for holding water. The pot filled as above can be used for sowing seeds, potting of plants or planting cuttings.

### Procedure for potting:

- A healthy rooted cutting of any plants is dug out from nursery bed having maximum roots (without damage of earthen ball).
- For potting of the plants, scoop out a hole in the center of the pot and keep the plant in the center of the hole with roots well established in all directions without any damage.
- Fill the potting mixture all round the plants and press it firmly and uniformly. Care should be taken that planting is not done too deep.
- Irrigate the plants with water can.
- Place the potted plant in a cool shady place for establishment.

**Repotting :** It means transferring of plants from pots and planting them in the same or different pot. Plants growing for more than one year in the same pots need repotting to avoid pot bound conditions. Potted perennial plants are required repotting every year.

### Procedure for removing plants from old pot:

- The plant (Arelia or Acalypha) to be repotted is watered one day before operation for easy removal of the earth ball from pot (Light irrigation given if required).
- The repotted plant is held between second and third fingure of right hand then thumb along the side of the pot.
- The pot is then turned upside down and then taped gently on the edge of bench or a pot to loosen the ball of earth.
- The ball of earth is then taken out from the old pot carefully. If however, it does not come out the soil is pushed through the drain hole with the finger.
- All crocks under the ball of earth and all the superfluous and old soil are gently removed from the ball of the earth all round.
- Decayed or surplus roots are clean cut out with a sharp knife and some of the thickest roots are carefully drawn out of the ball of earth to establish in the new soil round the sides of the new or larger pot.
- Then the plant is potted as describe above



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