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"I've used Haxnicks products for years – they're designed to do a brilliant job AND look good. Just what's needed!" Pippa Greenword



AIR PRUNING



EXPERT ADVICE FROM PIPPA GREENWOOD

Plant Care

Plants with vigorous roots systems contained in a porous pot will require plenty of nourishment and watering. Keep them well watered and feed them from early spring until mid-summer, don't feed any later as this may encourage frost-prone tender new growth at just the wrong time of year. A high-potash liquid feed is perfect for plants grown for flowers or fruit.



About Pippa

Pippa is a passionate grow-your-own specialist. As a highly trained botanist and much loved gardening expert she has presented a TV gardening series, is a regular panellist for a popular gardening radio show and written numerous, best-selling gardening books.

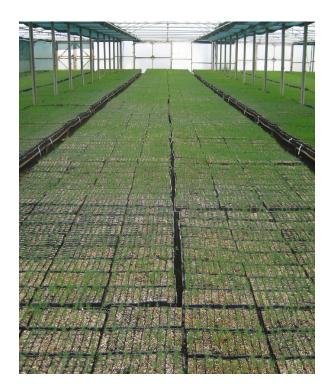




Super Roots

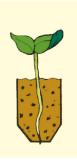
Air pruning is a technique that has been used by many commercial growers for years. It can dramatically alter the way in which a plant's root system develops: instead of forming roots which are too long and large for a successful life in a container (and inclined make the plant become pot-bound), the roots will stop growing on contact with the air and so form a much more intricate and dense network of finer roots. These roots are best adapted to taking up moisture and food materials and so an air-pruned plant not only survives, but thrives, in a smaller pot.

Most plants will respond well to air-pruning and so can be grown in a much smaller volume of compost than if you were using a traditional pot. The large quantity of finer roots has another benefit – extreme cold is far less likely to cause significant damage to the root system of an airpruned plant.



Growing from seed If a seed germinates in a garden bed

or border it can grow unchecked with no disturbance to its roots. But when we grow seedlings in trays, some really suffer when they are transplanted. If you raise seedlings in cells this transplant shock is much reduced. But there is something even more clever that you can use – this system, which combines reduced root disturbance and air-pruning. Plants grown in Rootrainers have extremely well developed fine root systems which form when the root tips of the longer roots are 'air pruned' when they make contact with the air at the base of the Rootrainer. The result? A fantastic root system which is also much less likely to be damaged when the plant is transplanted. You can use Rootrainers for a wide range of seed sowing and also for taking cuttings.







The tips make contact with the air and die off



producing new root growth with root balls

Air Pruning Pots

Vigoroot is a felt-like fabric which is permeable to water and air. It not only reduces the risk of the compost in a pot becoming water-logged, but ensures an adequate supply of air to the roots and allows the roots to be air-pruned. This means that, rather than encouraging the formation of large, major roots, a plentiful supply of finer roots is formed and these do a great job of taking up moisture and nutrients, far better than the set of larger roots formed in a more traditional pot. This extra-efficient root system means that it is possible for larger shrubs and trees to grow well in a Vigoroot pot than in a similar sized traditional one. Vigoroot pots are available in a range of sizes, between them perfect for growing annual or perennial flowers, vegetables, herbs and, of course, trees and shrubs.

Vigoroot^{TN}

- Root tips are air-pruned
- · Strong, fibrous root system
- develops · More nutrients absorbed
- Greater resistance to harsh
- weather, disease and pests
- Higher yields/more fruit



