# Transplanting

Now that you have some successfully rooted clones or seedlings, it is time to transplant them into their next growing medium or next sized container. By now you should already have your Veg room set up and it's ready to accept your babies. If not, we'll discuss the Veg room set-up process in another section. Plants that have out grown their containers quickly show signs of being root bound and should be transplanted asap. Transplant shock is highly detrimental and can take up to a full week for your pant to recover. For this reason you should ONLY transplant when it is absolutely necessary if you want to harvest on schedule. By now your seedlings or clones should have enough of a root ball to be transplanted safely.

## *Soil Transplanting*

Many growers chose to gradually increase their pot size until their plant is in the largest container that their area will allow. Unfortunately, because transplanting is the second most stressful event for your plant, next to cloning, it is recommended to transplant your babies directly into your largest desired container. For shorter plants and hydroponic gardening, 3 gallon pots are usually the largest pot that you'll need otherwise you will run out of plant space rather quickly.

For large plants and mother plants you can use 10 to 30 gallon containers, indoors. Unfortunately, planting a small seedling or clone into a container this large can cause the overall plant growth to slow down to a crawl. This is because shortly after transplanting any plant, the majority of the growth that is occurring is new root growth under the surface of the new medium. Often when new growers

take this approach to transplanting , or starting mothers, they have a tendency to over water/feed because they aren't seeing any new growth above the soil at first. For faster growth for mother plants you should choose a health adult plant that is in a 3-5 gallon pot as your mother and transplant it into the larger pot.

In the previous section we talked about propagating our ladies into grow medium that is the same or similar to the medium we want to use for the rest of the grow. If using a soil/soilless mix then you will want to fill your new containers about 3/4 of the way with soil.

With your hand dig out a small hole in the center of the grow medium deep and wide enough to fit your plant's root ball. You will need to make it deep enough so that you can cover at

least an inch of the plants stem. This buried area of the stem will eventually sprout roots. Once the rot ball is completely covered with soil, lightly tamp the soil and root ball down into the pot. If you feel like you need to ad more soil go for it. Some growers, instead of tamping down the loose soil with their hands, they will lift the pot about a foot off the ground and drop it back on to the floor. This forces gravity to do the work so you don't accidently break stem or roots while pressing it into the pot. After the root ball is secure, water it in until the entire soil area has been moistened. New soil that is fresh from the bag should be slightly moist. This allows your first watering to be easily absorbed by the soil. If your soil is too dry the water will not absorb and it will run right out of your pot. This can be avoided

by spraying the top inch of the soil with water and mixed with a surfactant additive. Liquid kelp is a great organic surfactant and if that is not an option you can add one drop of dish soap to the water bottle for the same result. If you are transplanting into a hydroponic system dry medium isn't as much of an issue as with soil. Hydroponic grow mediums are made to absorb water quickly regardless of its initial moisture content.

## *Hydroponic Transplanting*

Depending on which medium you are using, the process of transplanting is very similar to transplanting in soil. When transplanting into coco coir or expanded clay pellets, you can transplant from literally any propagation medium, including soil. As mentioned in previous sections, the most commonly used

hydroponic mediums are rockwool, expanded clay pellets and coco coir. There are certainly many other mediums that are use but these three are the most used due to their cost and availability. As we mentioned before you  will see the best results by using the same medium that you propagated in.

To transplant into coco or expanded clay you will need a container similar to what we used in the soil section. Most hydroponic containers are made specific for the type of system they are going to be used in. Coco coir and clay pellets work best when using flood and drain systems, deep water culture systems, aeroponic systems and aquaponic systems. Some growers will use these mixed into their soil mixes as well for better aeration a water retention.

Fill the container 3/4 of the way full with the

clay or coco and lightly make a small indention for the root ball to sit. Lightly wet the medium and place the root ball into the indentation. Next cover the root ball by filling the container the rest of the way with your medium, water it in and place the container into its system in the Veg room. If you are growing with rockwool cubes or slabs, the process is a little different. Typically, rockwool is used in flood and drain systems, drip arrogation systems, aquaponics systems and some aeroponics systems. Before we can transplant we'll need to pre-treat the rockwool as we did in propagation. Soak the cubes in your desired solution with a pH of 5.5 for 30 minutes. After soaking let them sit to drain off for at least 5 minutes. Once the rockwool is moist to the touch we can begin transplanting. In propagation we placed our clones into a round rockwool plug. In the center of the cubes that

you are about to use usually have a hole cut out of the top of it specifically for our clone plug. Gently remove your rooted clone plug from the clone tray and place it into the hole. If you have to give it some force don’t worry, rockwool is fairly soft and forgiving. It shouldn't damage the roots too much when you push the plug all the way down into the hole. Just be careful to not break the stem in the process.

Repeat this process until all of your clones or seedlings have been transplanted and moved into their hydro system. Once all of your babies have been transplanted and watered in, they can now be moved into their new home in the Veg room.