

Transplanting seedlings using modified tongs (dibblers)

2021/10/16

Summary:

1. Place the seedling in the palm of the off-hand with roots away. Scoop the plant up so the end of the tap root is at the end of the steel dibbler.
2. Close the dibbler tongs so as not to cut the stem.
3. Plunge the dibbler into the mix at the center of the pot.
4. Change hand position to allow the dibbler to partially open.
5. Hold the plant in place at the correct planting depth and withdraw the dibbler.
6. Use the dibbler to form mix around plant at correct height.

180mm approx Mini Tongs from the two dollar shop. Cut with tinsnips and bent into a more circular cross section. About 0.75cm when closed seems to work well, but a larger one also works on grasses, iris where more than one plant is good.



50x50x140ish individual pots in a carry tray.



These *Oleria paniculata* seedlings were well rooted with at least one proper leaf after the cotyledons. Remove a section of seedlings and holding onto a LEAF not the stem, tease one out of the mix so they are individualised. It may become bare rooted but that is OK.



Stress that seedlings are only picked up by their leaves NOT their stem EVER.
Bare rooted seedling laid on palm with it's root direction toward the end of the tongs.



Tongs closed to protect roots and then plunged into potting mix. Roots shouldn't extend past end of tongs as don't want J rooting to occur.



The tongs are expanded and wriggled so media falls around roots at depth. Leaves are supported so seedling ends up at correct depth. Good survival and quick 100 per hour approx.



Tongs should meet at the sides and point but may not mesh with use. Rebend carefully. Spring may break with rust and time. Replace spring with two bent hairclips.

