

“Do It Yourself” Concrete Blocks

Stumblebloc's heavy duty plastic molds make it easy to manufacture your own hollow core concrete building blocks. By stacking the self-aligning blocks it makes it easy to build walls quickly and accurately. Conventional mortar is not required, “block grip” or block bond is used as a “glue” to hold the blocks together. We use “Block Bond”, which is a trowel on structural skin that is used when stacking conventional blocks for a wall. This thin set material is used in place of mortar. Using “Block Bond”, makes it possible to lay and stack as many blocks as your crew can handle. No need to wait while the mortar sets up, so that stacking can continue as long as there is a supply of blocks.

A. Marcelino & Co., a concrete and asphalt recycler, takes in waste concrete and asphalt, crushes, screens, the crushed material to make an aggregate product to use as a subbase for parking lots, roads and sidewalks. Further screening and sizing other products are produced such as drainage stone, aggregate to be used in redi-mix concrete or is recycled into an asphalt hot mix. From the concrete recycling, Marcelino batches a redi-mix concrete using

fresh Portland cement to make a 4,000 psi concrete mix which is used in the production of Stumblebloc. Another material that Marcelino recycles and uses in the Stumblebloc molds, is Styrofoam. Waste Styrofoam packing materials is shred and reduced down to a size of a “BB”. Mixing the Styrofoam with recycled crushed concrete, Portland cement, and water, this mixture is poured into the molds, allowed to harden to form an insulation Stumblebloc. Marcelino has installed these blocks in his shop, filling the voids with the same Styrofoam mixture which created a wall with an additional 8” of insulation. After the installation of these blocks his shop was noticeably warmer in the winter. We have also experimented using different materials such as; shredded plastic bottles, crushed glass, dried grass and hay. As you can see the Stumblebloc system allows you to experiment with many different waste materials. Many of these materials are not usable to produce structural blocks, but it leaves only the creativity of the builder to find uses for these types of blocks.

Casting the blocks is easy. After applying the release oils to the molds, the molds



Marcelino mold makes stackable blocks that lock in place without mortar.

are assembled and filled with the concrete mixture. After the concrete is set the molds are opened, and the block removed and set aside for further curing. The molds are then cleaned, oiled, reassembled and refilled with your concrete mixture to produce more blocks.

The whole block molds are priced at \$50.00 each, half blocks are \$25.00. There is no limit to the reuse of these molds with proper care.

Contact: Alan Marcelino and Co. by phone at: 802-862-6383, mail: P.O. Box 195, Williston, Vermont 05495 or via e-mail: Starpaver1@aol.com.

Reader Inquiry No. 131

Revolutionary New Way to Propagate Fruit Trees

An Alabama inventor, Hong Park, has come up with a new twist on the old technique of air layering. This new technique with the Air Propagator makes propagating fruit trees, shrubs and vines an easier job, more efficient especially dealing with camellia, pear, apple, citrus and rose family.

Air layering is a method of reproducing plants by inducing roots to form on the plant stem without cutting off the stem from the parent plant. It's an excellent way to replicate an existing plant with less disturbance of the parent plant. Air layering can produce larger plants which readily mature much faster than growing them from seeds or cuttings. This technique would also work for Japanese maples and ginkgo trees.

The process works like this: 1) Remove a ring of bark from the stem and enclose the exposed stem with a moist potting soil or peat moss; 2) Keep the stem moist until enough roots for transplant are formed; 3) Cut off and use your new plant.

Air layering with the Air Propagator clones trees, vines, and shrubs within 30 to 120 days while conventional methods can take as long as 2 to 3 years to bring them to maturity. This saves rooting time and helps nursery growers have more plants to sell quicker.

The Air Propagator is a plastic ball that comes in two halves, which are filled with the rooting medium and placed around the branch and secured with self-locking feature. As an option you can buy a unit with one half made

of clear plastic, which allows you to see the root growth process without disturbing the root system. The unit comes in a small, medium, and large size and can be purchased individually or in a kit or bulk. The kit contains the Air Propagator shells, rooting medium, rooting hormone, zip ties and instructions.

"As the owner of Brad's Backyard Nursery in Ridgeville Corners, Ohio, I've successfully used the system," says Brad Miller. "It's super simple and easy to use, and it takes a lot of labor and time out of the propagating process. I've successfully used the idea on peach and pear trees as well as Goji vines. This summer I'm using the Air Propagator on 20 different varieties of fruit and nut trees in my mini orchard."

Buy 1 Get 1 Free - Until May 31, 2017

(Orders from foreign countries excluded)

3-pack Air Propagator Shell Only:

\$4.95 (small, 2"), \$7.95 (medium, 4")

Air Propagator Kits:

\$10.95 (small, 2"), \$13.95 (medium, 4")

How-to videos are available on the company's website.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup, Hong Park, Parkway Greenhouse, 13685 Memorial Parkway S.W., Huntsville, Ala 35893** (ph 256 650-4644; cell 256 694-2169; or www.airpropagator.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 130



Air-layering involves removing a ring of bark from the plant stem, and then enclosing the exposed area with moist potting soil until roots form for transplant.



The Air Propagator is a plastic ball with 2 halves which are filled with the rooting medium, placed around the stem. One side can be transparent.



We at Parkway Greenhouse successfully propagated male Ginkgo Hibba Trees.