

## **A Temporary Alternative to Pots**

### **Rob Cole**

Sometimes it is necessary to lift and store large plants, when moving house or re-invigorating an old planting bed for instance. The biggest problem we found when moving plants to our new home in 1998 was to find containers big enough. Pots can be bought in large sizes, but they are expensive and heavy, especially when full of a large plant, its root ball, and a load of compost.

Our solution came as a flash of inspiration as my wife eased herself into her elasticated tights one morning! Old tights are a perfect container for large root balls. Just stretch the waistband over a large bowl or a dustbin lid, drop in the plant, stretch the fabric around the root ball (notice how the elasticity holds the root ball tight), and then wrap the legs around the top and tie them in a knot. Some of our plants stayed in this temporary cocoon for over a year, and given a shady spot and regular watering were none the worse when we came to plant them.

I found the only downside was the funny looks I got when I went round my office asking the girls at work if they had any old tights I could have!