



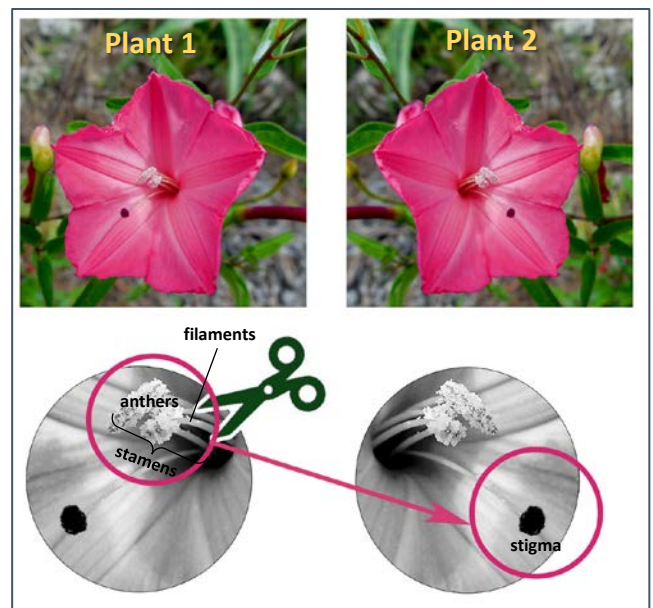
# How to hand-pollinate man-in-the-ground

**Why hand-pollinate?** A man-in-the-ground (*Ipomoea microdactyla*) will not usually set seed unless it is cross-pollinated. Ideally, a pollinator is present and will do the work for you. In urban yards, YOU may need to be the pollinator.

**Materials needed:** A manicure scissors, a tweezers, and two separate plants that are both in bloom and are not genetic clones (if your plants were propagated by cuttings from one plant, they are clones).

## Instructions:

1. Use the tweezers to grasp the filament of one stamen, then use the manicure scissors to cut the filament close to the base.
2. Grasping the stamen with the tweezers, move it to your second plant and hold it like a paint brush to “paint” white pollen on the magenta stigma.
3. Repeat the process for other flowers, and cross-pollinate in reverse as well (do not just use all the pollen from one plant and put it on all the stigmas of the second plant).
4. Wait. If you were successful, then after the bloom falls, the part left behind will stay on the vine and swell. If fertilization did not occur, the entire structure will fall off.
5. Harvest when the capsule is brown and crispy. It will take several months for it to finish maturing. Seeds will be hard and black when they are mature.



Capsules that have been successfully pollinated; the brown ones are more mature



Seeds are rounded and black, with fluffy hairs which aid in wind dispersal



If you want to share your bounty with others, we would love to have your seeds! For mail or drop-off instructions just email [ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org). Thanks!