



Plant Propagation Cheat Sheet

Two methods, one page. Pick water OR soil based on the species — both work.

Water Propagation

EASIEST FOR BEGINNERS

- Cut** a healthy stem just below a node (the bump where leaves emerge). Cutting should be 4-6 inches with at least 2 nodes.
- Strip lower leaves** so the node is bare. Keep 2-4 leaves at the top.
- Place in clear glass** of room-temperature filtered water. Submerge ONLY the node, NOT the leaves.
- Bright indirect light.** No direct sun — cooks the water.
- Change water weekly** (or when cloudy). Add a fresh splash twice a week.
- Wait 2-6 weeks** for roots 1-2 inches long. Then transplant to soil.

Soil Propagation

HIGHER SUCCESS RATE

- Cut** same as water method — below a node, 4-6 inches with 2+ nodes.
- Optional rooting hormone** on the cut end. Speeds rooting 30-50%.
- Stick into fresh potting mix** (or 50:50 perlite + peat). Bury the node deep.
- Mist soil daily** for first 2 weeks. Stay damp, not soaked.
- Cover with clear plastic** (loosely) for humidity dome — remove daily for air.
- Tug-test at week 3-4.** Resistance = roots are forming. Then treat as a regular plant.

9 Species — Best Method + Time to Root

| SPECIES | BEST METHOD | EASE | TIME TO ROOT |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Pothos <i>Epipremnum aureum</i> | Water (or Soil) | BEGINNER | 2-4 weeks |
| Spider Plant <i>Chlorophytum comosum</i> | Water or Plantlets | BEGINNER | 2-3 weeks |
| Philodendron <i>Philodendron spp.</i> | Water (or Soil) | BEGINNER | 2-4 weeks |
| Monstera <i>Monstera deliciosa</i> | Water (Aerial Root Helps) | MEDIUM | 4-8 weeks |
| Snake Plant <i>Dracaena trifasciata</i> | Soil (Leaf Section) | MEDIUM | 6-10 weeks |
| Peace Lily <i>Spathiphyllum</i> | Division (Repot Time) | MEDIUM | Immediate (with care) |
| Aloe Vera <i>Aloe barbadensis</i> | Offsets "Pups" | BEGINNER | Immediate |
| Calathea <i>Calathea spp.</i> | Division Only | ADVANCED | Care-dependent |
| Orchid <i>Phalaenopsis spp.</i> | Keiki (Baby Plantlet) | ADVANCED | Months-years |

Honest Tips Before You Start

- Spring + summer = best results.** Active growth season = faster rooting. Avoid winter prop unless you have grow lights.
- Sharp clean cut matters more than the method.** Use sterilized scissors — alcohol wipe between plants prevents disease spread.
- Not every cutting roots.** Expect 60-80% success on beginner species, 30-50% on advanced. Take multiple cuttings per attempt.
- Don't fertilize new propagations** for 4-6 weeks after rooting. Tender new roots burn easily.