



Plant Propagation Cheat Sheet

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

Water Propagation

EASIEST FOR BEGINNERS

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

Soil Propagation

HIGHER SUCCESS RATE

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