



Fact Sheet **6** Propagating House Plants: Leaf Cuttings

Leaf cuttings produce healthy, shapely young plantlets. The method works well on plants that do not have an obvious stem, such as African Violets, succulents and Rex Begonias. Propagation from leaves is not complicated but does require patience as the new little plant develops slowly.

Gather your equipment and supplies:

You will need a clean, sharp knife or scissors, a clean 2" pot, and clean growing medium (vermiculite, perlite, or a commercial growing medium other than garden soil) and a mini-greenhouse fashioned from a plastic bag, glass jar or clear plastic box.

There are two types of methods to choose from:

Leaf Section Cuttings:

Use this method on Rex Begonias and other large-leaved plants with obvious veins. The leaves are cut into pieces, with the edge of the cuttings closest to the base of the plant inserted into the growing medium.



1. Cut off the leaf stalk (the petiole), cut out close to where the petiole is attached to the leaf, and then slice between the veins of the leaf to yield two, three, or sometimes four sections each with a major vein.
2. Dip the base end in rooting hormone (liquid or powder), then insert the section upright into a pot filled with growing medium.
3. Place the pot in its mini-greenhouse and set it where it gets good light but not direct sun.
4. The new plant will peek out of the soil in 6-10 weeks.

Whole Leaf Cuttings:

Peperomia and African Violets are commonly started by this method. The leaf and its petiole (stalk) are removed from the plant and the leaf is trimmed to $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1". The petiole is then inserted into medium as described above. Be sure that the leaf does not touch the medium. The new plant will form at the base of the petiole.

Leaves without petioles are snipped from the parent plant and set directly into the medium, the cut side down. Leaves of cacti and succulents should first be laid out in a dry place for two days to "heal."