



Growing Guru



NEW PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

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A lot of houseplants and garden plants can be propagated using simple techniques. Stems, and sometimes leaves, will root readily in water. I like choosing the right size for my cuttings by using vases of all sizes, votive candle holders, tall spaghetti sauce jars, and drinking glasses to hold the cutting in water until a mass of roots have been produced, and the new plant is ready to plant. However, sometimes I just keep the plant growing in water, because it takes less space that way. I particularly like this article on [How to Propagate Houseplants for Beginners](#) for the ten impressive pictures showing how successful plant propagation can be. This form of asexual reproduction produces clones, and thus all new plants are identical to the "mother plant."

Some plants may produce roots more quickly if the cuttings are dipped into a powder containing hormones or plant growth regulators that mimic the auxin found naturally in plants. Normally these cuttings would be placed in moist potting soil in a small pot covered with a plastic bag or if you want to be fancy under a bell jar or cloche to keep the plant moist. It is important to keep out of direct sunlight until the cutting has produced roots and the cover can be removed. You don't want to cook your "baby plant."



Read these articles to learn more about [Using Rooting Hormones](#) and about [Using Hormones with Different Cutting Types](#). This article describes [Winter Propagating](#) with garden plants that can be pruned in winter. There is lots of information and videos online about propagating all kinds of plants asexually, but here are about a dozen articles on various aspects of [Propagating New Plants Via Cuttings](#).

If you have a *Diffenbachia*, *Dracaena*, or other houseplant that has grown too tall, consider cutting off the top and making a new plant. The "mother plant" may produce side shoots and make it look fuller, a process in plant growth that is also controlled by auxin.