

# Starting a Plant from a Cutting



Rev 240910

## Starting a plant from a cutting in potting mix or perlite

"Epiphyllum hybrids" are quickly grown from cuttings. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Obtain a cutting approximately 6-8 inches long with four or more viable areoles.
2. Cure the cutting in a cool, dry place in the shade for at least ten days to allow a callus to form over the end of the cutting. This will help prevent the cutting from rotting when being rooted.
3. If desired, apply root-promoting hormone or cinnamon to the end to be planted. Few studies indicate that rooting hormones are significantly beneficial when used on epiphyllums but will not harm them. Instead of a rooting hormone, I use cinnamon as a Fungicide.
4. WITHHOLD WATER from planted cuttings for two weeks until you feel resistance when gently pulling on the cutting. Your cutting does not need watering until it is rooted. (You may mist the cutting every few days, but don't soak the soil until roots have formed.)



- a. If planting only one plant in the soil, use a small pot no larger than 4 inches across. If planting two or three cuttings of the same hybrid in soil, you may use a larger pot. In either case, hold the cutting in the pot and loosely place planting soil around them. Two or more areoles should be below the soil line. Do not compact the soil; add enough potting mix around the cutting until it can stand on its own.



- b. If rooting in perlite, you can start as many cuttings as will fit into a container. When rooting perlite cuttings, I use a plastic shoebox-sized container with holes drilled into the bottom. When planting cuttings in perlite, push the cuttings into the perlite until at least two areoles are covered. The distance they are buried in perlite is not critical as it is much looser than planting mix. After rooting, replant them in the soil. The only advantage of rooting in perlite is that it is easy to determine if the cutting has been rooted.



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5. Planting more than one cutting of the same epiphyllum will shorten the time it takes to bloom. Epiphyllums prefer to be root-bound before blooming; two or more plants will speed that up. Note: If planting two or more plants in the same pot, only plant the same epiphyllum hybrid; otherwise, the stronger one may strangle the other plant.
  
6. When the cutting has rooted, never let the soil become bone dry. The top 1/3 of the soil should be dry, and below that, it should be slightly moist. When watering, let water run out of the drain holes every time you water; you may continue misting if you wish. I usually do not mist unless there are a few days of hot weather (above 90 degrees). Though epiphyllum hybrids are members of the cactus family, their watering needs differ from those of desert cacti.
  
7. Remember, overwatering kills more epiphyllum hybrids than underwatering.