



**CORONA**

SEASON AFTER SEASON



[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)

# BOOSTING THE BEAUTY OF AND PROPAGATING HOUSEPLANTS

## GROOMING

- Wash off the dust
  - Wipe off leaves or spritz with warm water
  - Use cosmetic brush on fuzzy leaf plants
- Remove faded, yellow or dry leaves
- Trim brown tips and leaf edges
  - Use sharp snips, like Corona's Hydroponic Micro Snips
- Pinching
  - Soft pinch removes tip of stem where leaf or stem developing
    - ✦ Use sharp snips or fingers
  - Hard pinch removes the tip and several inches of the stem
  - Pinch above set of healthy leaves or node for neater appearance
  - Pinching removes growth hormone (auxin) that promotes upward growth. Removing tip of the stem removes the stored auxin and encourages branching

## TRANSPLANTING

- When do indoor plants need transplanting?
  - Water quickly passes through the potting mix and out the bottom of the pot
  - New growth is stunted
  - Roots grow out of the drainage hole and/or fill the pot
- Time of year
  - Consider transplanting in late winter through early summer when plants are actively growing
- How to transplant
  - Easiest when soil is moist, but not overly wet
  - If needed, cut roots away from the edge of the pot with a Hori Hori knife
  - Slide plant out of the pot

- Loosen or slice through girdling roots, those growing around the rootball
  - ✦ Hori Hori knife or bypass pruners
- Select container with drainage holes one size larger (1-2" or 2.5-5 cm) in diameter larger
- Cover drainage holes with coffee filter to prevent soil leaking out of the bottom
  - ✦ Some people plug holes with floral foam to prevent soil settling
- Add new potting mix as needed so plant crown is even with the soil surface
- Water thoroughly
- Adjust watering to compensate for additional potting mix

## PROPAGATING

- Start new plants from pieces of existing plants
- *Avoid propagating patented plants. This is illegal and negatively impacts the breeders that invest years and money into breeding and introducing new plants for us to enjoy.*

## LEAF-STEM CUTTINGS

- Houseplants with leafy stems, such as:
  - Pothos
  - Philodendron
  - Inch plant
  - Peperomia
  - ZZ plant
  - Many others
- How to take cuttings
  - Take 4-6" cutting
    - ✦ For cacti and succulents, allow cut end to callous over a day or two
  - Remove lowest leaf or two
  - Dip cut end into rooting hormone if needed

## Corona Tools

When there's work to be done, there's no doubt about the name on the tool - CORONA®.

Born of a need for reliability, our tools serve the demands of professionals and serve to inspire those looking for professional results. A Corona tool in the shed is an investment in years of reliable performance. A Corona tool in hand is the means to forge a truly proud outdoor space. For us, it's a promise of the highest standards in utility, quality and craftsmanship. For you, it's the means to accomplish the job done with confidence.

Founded in the 1928, Corona is a leading brand manufacturing professional tools built for strength and durability and homeowner garden tools that provide feature-rich benefits like comfort, control and easier cutting.

Corona's proven designs, quality manufacturing processes and unparalleled customer service make it the best choice in tools for contractors, agricultural professionals and avid gardeners alike.



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- Stick cut end into moist vermiculite, perlite or potting mix
- Loosely cover with plastic bag
- Place in bright location, out of direct sunlight
- Keep growing medium moist
- Roots should form in about 2 weeks
- Plant in potting mix, if needed and move to preferred growing location

## LEAF CUTTINGS

A few plants to try and how to make leaf cuttings

### ● **AFRICAN VIOLET**

- Remove leaf with leaf stem (petiole)
- Stick petiole in moist vermiculite, perlite or potting mix
- Loosely cover with plastic bag
- Place in bright location out of direct sunlight
- Keep growing media moist
- Be patient, a new plant should begin to grow in 1 to 2 months
- Plant in potting mix, if needed, and move to preferred growing location

### ● **JADE PLANT**

- Leaves that drop off plant and onto potting mix often start new plants
- Remove a leaf and let it sit overnight to form callous
- Place leaf cut side down in cacti and succulent mix or set it on the soil surface
- Water just enough to keep the leaf from shriveling
- Place in bright, indirect light
- In a month or two you will see a new plant begin to grow
- Move to preferred growing location

### ● **SNAKE PLANT**

- *Variegated varieties will not maintain variegation with this method*
- Remove leaf and cut into 2" (5 cm) sections
- Notch end that was closest to the roots - this gets buried
- Stick notched end in moist vermiculite, perlite or potting mix
- Cover with plastic bag
- Place in bright location out of direct sunlight
- Keep growing media moist
- Be patient, a new plant should begin to grow in 1 to 2 months
- Plant in potting mix, if needed, and move to preferred growing location

### ● **REX BEGONIA**

- Remove leaf and slice through several veins in the leaf
- Place leaf with bottom side on moist potting mix surface and secure
  - ◆ Leaf must maintain contact with potting mix
- Loosely cover with plastic bag
- Place in bright location out of direct sunlight
- Keep growing media, not the leaf, moist
- Be patient, new plants should begin to grow in 1 to 2 months
- Separate individual plants and plant in potting mix, if needed, and move to preferred growing location



## **About Melinda**

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed *Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,  
[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)

## CANE CUTTINGS

### • DIEFFENBACHIA

- Cut the stem back to several inches above the soil surface
- Root leafy sections at top of the plant using leaf stem cuttings
- Cut the leafless portion of the stem into 2" (5 cm) sections containing at least one bud or node
- Allow the cutting to dry for several hours
- Fill a shallow container with a well-drained potting mix
- Lay the stem sections on their sides so the bottom half is covered and bud exposed
- Keep potting mix slightly moist
- Place container in bright location out of direct sunlight

### • YUCCA, PLUMERIA AND TI PLANTS

- Leafless sections of the stem, stuck vertically into the soil to root and grow - much like leaf-stem cuttings

## DIVISION

- Houseplants with multiple stems or crowns, such as:
  - Ferns
  - Snake plants
  - Peace lily
  - Cast iron plant
  - Others
- When to divide
  - When plants are actively growing for best results
  - Plant has outgrown its container and you don't want to move it into a larger pot
  - You want to start new plants

### • How to divide

- Slide the plant out of the container
- Use a sharp knife (Hori Hori) or bypass pruners to cut through the roots
- Divide the plant into several smaller pieces (divisions)
- Plant divisions in pots that are just an inch larger than the rootball
- Water thoroughly and move to preferred growing location

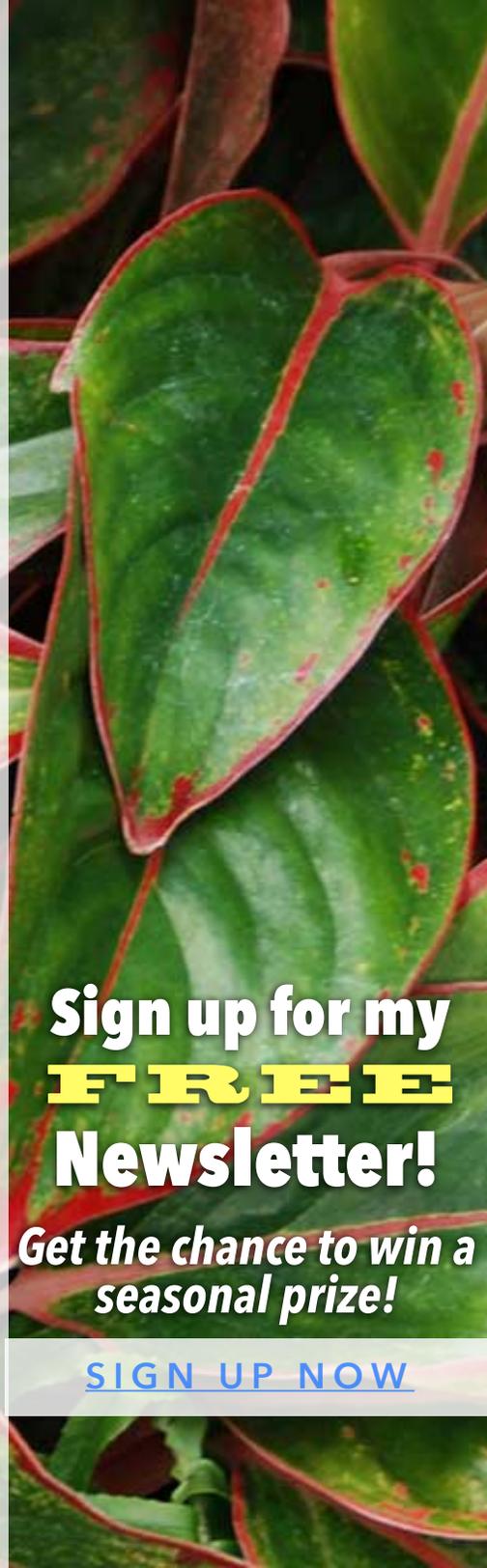
## LAYERING

### • VINING PLANTS

- Notch one of the long stems halfway through and about 9" from the tip
- Bury the notched stem in container of potting mix
- Keep potting mix or soil slightly moist
- New roots will eventually form and you have a new plant
- Cut the stem between the parent plant and buried stem

### • SPIDER PLANT

- Leave the plantlets connected to the parent plant
- Set the plantlet into container with potting mix so roots are buried
- Gently tamp potting mix around plantlet
- Water thoroughly and often enough to keep potting mix slightly moist
- Once plantlet develops additional roots, disconnect from parent plant
- Provide proper care



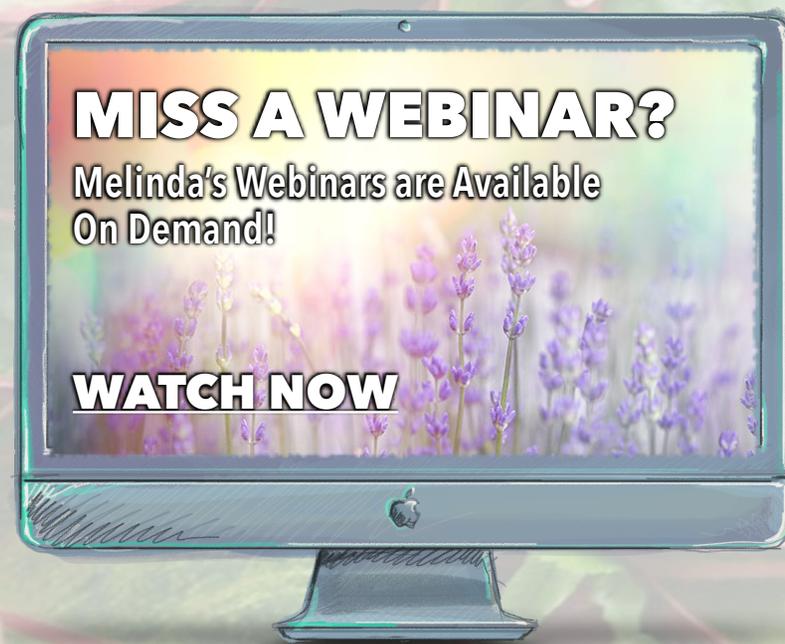
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- Or, just remove the plantlet, plant so roots are covered and keep potting mix moist
- ✦ Place in bright, indirect light for several weeks until additional roots form

## **AIR LAYERING**

- A few plants to try:
  - Diffenbachia
  - Dracaena
  - Ti plant
  - Palms that have lost the majority of their lower leaves
- How to
  - Cut halfway into the stem below the lowest leaf
  - Prop this open with toothpick or similar item
  - Sprinkle with rooting hormone
  - Pack moist sphagnum moss around the cut area
  - Cover with plastic
  - Continue to provide the plant with proper care
  - In a month or two you will see new roots through the plastic
  - Remove the plastic and cut stem beneath the rooted area of the stem
  - Plant the rooted cutting and water thoroughly and as needed
  - Cut the remaining stem back to several inches above the container and wait for new stems to appear





*Thank You*

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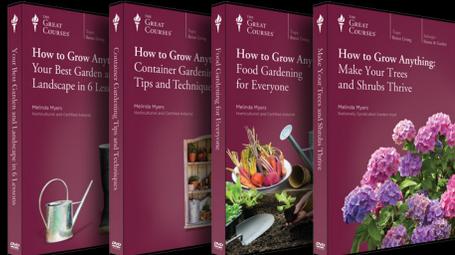
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