

Table 1. Propagation techniques for selected houseplants.

Plant	Propagation technique						Comments
	Herbaceous cutting	Leaf cutting	Stem section	Air layer	Compound layer	Division	
African violet		•				•	Cut petioles 1/2 inch long. Place potted leaf cuttings in plastic bag.
Arrowhead (Nepthytis)	•				•		Cuttings may be rooted in water.
Asparagus fern						•	Keep young divisions constantly moist.
Begonia	•	•					May be started from leaf sections placed on surface of rooting medium. Cleanliness important.
Bromeliads						•	Use well-drained medium high in organic matter. Orchid growing mix useful.
Cast iron plant						•	Provide good light after division.
Chinese evergreen	•		•				May be rooted or grown in water.
Christmas cactus	•						Keep moist, but avoid overwatering during rooting.
Chrysanthemum	•					•	Cuttings from new shoots in early spring often make better garden plants than divisions.
Coleus	•						Root in water. Easiest of all.
Croton	•			•			Slow to root. Cover with plastic. Give good light.
Diffenbachia	•		•	•			Subject to rot during rooting. Do not overwater. Keep clean.
Dracaena	•		•	•			Stem sections relatively slow.
English ivy	•				•		Easy to root. Sometimes slow starting.
Episcia	•	•					Related to African violet. Tip cuttings grow faster than leaf cuttings.
Ferns						•	Keep constantly moist after division.
Fuschia	•						Root easily. Prefers a cool temperature after rooting.
Gardenia	•						Vigorous new shoots root most easily in midsummer.
Geranium	•						Keep foliage dry during rooting.
Gloxinia		•					May be grown from leaf cuttings.
Hibiscus	•						Rooting hormones speed root production. Give bright light.
Hydrangea	•						Tend to root best in spring or early summer.
Impatiens	•						Very easy. May be rooted in water.
Jade plant	•	•					Keep fairly dry during rooting. Must have well-drained medium, e.g., coarse sand.
Kalanchoe	•	•					Use vegetative shoots, not flowering shoots for best rooting.
Lantana	•						Old, woody stems do not root as easily as more tender terminal shoots.
Maidenhair fern						•	Keep divisions constantly moist.
Norfolk Island pine	•			•			Very slow. Use only terminal cutting.
Orchid						•	Many types. Provide high humidity and well-drained organic medium.
Peperomia	•	•					Root easily. Avoid excess moisture during rooting.
Philodendron	•				•		May be rooted in water. Spring and early summer give quickest rooting.
Poinsettia	•						Propagate in late August for home. Cleanliness important.
Pothos	•				•		Will root in water. Spring and early summer propagation usually most successful.
Rubber plant	•			•			Keep humidity high during rooting, or use air layer.
Schefflera	•			•			Needs high humidity and bright light. Slow rooting.
Shrimp plant	•						Easy to root. Give good light.
Snake plant		•				•	Place leaf sections in same position they grew. Will not root upside down.
Spider plant		•				•	Very easy to root runners. Pot directly in soil mixture.
Wandering jew	•						Very easy. May be rooted in water.
Wax plant (Hoya)	•				•		Use leafy shoots, not long thin vines.
Zebra plant	•						Use nonflowering shoots. Give high humidity and good light.