

# The Art of Rooting in Water

*by Sherè Macumber*

*Extension Master Gardener Volunteer*

Propagating plants through water rooting is a simple, satisfying, and cost-effective method for growing new greenery. This method involves placing plant cuttings in water to encourage root development before transferring them to soil. It's an excellent technique for both beginners and experienced gardeners, offering a close-up view of the fascinating process of root formation.

To get started, select a healthy cutting from a plant that propagates well in water, such as pothos, philodendrons, spider plants, or herbs like basil. The cutting should be 4–6 inches long, with the lower leaves removed to avoid rotting. Place the cutting in a glass or jar filled with water, ensuring that the nodes (where the leaves were attached) are submerged, as this is where the roots will emerge.

Position the container in a well-lit area with indirect sunlight. Direct sun can overheat the water or damage the tender cutting. Refresh the water every 3–5 days to prevent stagnation and maintain the health of the cuttings. Within a few weeks, you'll likely notice roots beginning to sprout.



Once the roots are 1–2 inches long, the cutting is ready to transition to soil. Gently plant it in a pot with fresh soil, water it thoroughly, and watch it thrive.

Water propagation is not only practical but also an enjoyable way to expand your plant collection, allowing you to witness nature's resilience. Give it a try and experience the magic of growing life from a simple cutting!