

Cutting and Planting Leaves

Your leaf was selected from a healthy plant with large leaves when possible. Some plants don't grow large leaves, and in this case, you will have received a full leaf. We try and not add much moisture to the leaf so there is not any rot inside the plastic bag. If for some reason the leaf appears to be slightly limp, just lay it in a shallow bowl of water over night and then dry it with a paper towel before placing it in your soil mix. Never plant a limp leaf because it won't make it. And make sure that after soaking a leaf that you use a paper towel and remove any excess water by patting it dry. Excess water on the leaf can cause it to rot quickly.

We use a plastic container with lid, shown below, available in our store. The trays are 9" square and 3 inches deep. Slightly moisten your mix and fill the container almost to the top of the black bottom section. This gives you a nice 3/4" to 1" deep planting area. You can use a rooting gel or powder. We have recently discovered Quick Clone, found on Amazon. It works to quickly get your leaves rooted. Cut your leaf according to the photos shown below. There are three different ways to cut leaves. If you want just one plant then place the leaf into the dirt without cutting anything off as shown on the left. By not cutting the bottom of the leaf, the leaf will continue to grow while it roots and you might even see flowers quickly. The photo in the middle shows how to cut into sections for quick babies. Be sure to discard the bottom little piece. The tip will be the slowest part and can also be discarded if desired. The photo on the right shows how to get the most out of your leaf. Cut off the bottom bit and the tip. Then cut out the center vein and place both leaf side into the soil with the center vein part down. The photo on the right shows putting them in the container just before being placed under the lighting. Close the top on your tray and place under your light source. Mist every week or so to keep leaves moist. The two photos below show a leaf cut and ready to put into soilless mix and a tray just filled with new leaves.



Once babies start to form (30 days or more) start taking the lid off for a few hours a day to acclimate the babies to the air where they will be growing. When they are about 1.5 inches long gently pull them off of the mother leaf and put them in small cups or very small pots. We use shot glasses. Do not place your tray in a dark area, nor on a window sill with direct sun. They will be in shock from being cut so treat them gently. Indirect light is the best. If the soils dries use a misting bottle to mist the soil but not the leaf itself so you don't get rot. Once you can tug on the leaf and feel that it is rooted then you can mist the leaves as well but always with plain water until you see babies forming. Once this happens then you can actually use your fertilizer water in a small spray bottle and spray at the base of the leaves so that they babies are getting nutrients, but only spray every three to four weeks. They won't need much nutrients.

Don't hesitate to contact us at custservice@worldofstrels.com with any questions you might have.