

How to Propagate *Alstonia scholaris*



Unveiling the Secrets of Propagation: Growing Your Own *Alstonia Scholaris*

The *Alstonia scholaris*, also known as the Devil Tree or Blackboard Tree, is a captivating species with lush foliage and an intriguing history shrouded in folklore. While its fragrant, nocturnal flowers might be a sensory delight, growing this magnificent tree from scratch can feel like a mystical challenge. Fear not! This guide delves into the fascinating world of *Alstonia scholaris* propagation, unveiling the secrets to successfully growing these trees and bringing their unique beauty to your own backyard.

Method 1: Seeds – A Journey of Patience and Reward

- **Timing is Key:** The ideal time for [seed propagation](#) is late spring or early summer when the weather is warm and humid.

- **Sourcing Your Seeds:** Look for mature seed pods on established trees. These pods are long and cylindrical, turning from green to brown when ripe, and will split open to release flat, winged seeds.
- **Sowing the Seeds:** Use a well-draining seed starting mix. Sprinkle the seeds on the surface and lightly press them down, ensuring they receive adequate light.
- **Patience, Young Padawan:** Germination can be slow, often taking 3-4 weeks or even longer. Maintain consistent moisture and warmth during this period.

Method 2: Cuttings – A Faster Path to Success

- **The Cutting Edge:** Taking cuttings is a quicker propagation method. Select healthy, semi-hardwood cuttings from the current year's growth. Ideally, each cutting should be 6-8 inches long with several nodes.
- **Hormonal Help:** Dip the cut end of the cutting in rooting hormone to encourage faster root development.
- **Planting the Cutting:** Insert the treated end into a pot filled with a well-draining potting mix.
- **Creating a Humid Haven:** Cover the pot with a plastic bag or place it in a humidity dome to create a warm, moist environment essential for root development.
- **New Beginnings:** With proper care and patience, roots should form within a few weeks, and you'll begin to see new growth.

Caring for Your Propagated Alstonia Scholaris:

- **Sunlight and Shade:** While mature trees tolerate full sun, young saplings prefer partial shade, especially in hotter climates.
- **The Importance of Drainage:** Plant your *Alstonia scholaris* in well-drained soil to prevent root rot. They are relatively drought-tolerant once established but appreciate regular watering while young.
- **Feeding the Future:** Feed your growing tree with a

balanced fertilizer during the growing season to support healthy development.

Propagating your own *Alstonia scholaris* is a rewarding experience. Though each method requires patience, the satisfaction of nurturing this majestic tree from seed or cutting is unparalleled. So, why not embark on this botanical journey and welcome the timeless beauty of the *Alstonia scholaris* into your own green space?