

Arabis auriculata



Unlock the Secret to Multiplying Your Ear-Leaved Rockcress (*Arabis auriculata*)

The Ear-leaved Rockcress, known scientifically as *Arabis auriculata*, might not be the showiest plant in your garden, but its delicate charm and resilience make it a wonderful addition to rock gardens, borders, and containers. If you're eager to see more of these charming white blooms gracing your outdoor space, propagation is surprisingly easy! Let's explore the different methods for expanding your *Arabis auriculata* collection.

Sow the Seeds of Success: Propagating by Seed

Starting *Arabis auriculata* from seed is a rewarding experience that gives you a sense of accomplishment as you nurture new life. Here's what you need to do:

1. **Timing is Key:** The ideal time to sow seeds is in the

spring or fall. This allows the seedlings to establish themselves during cooler temperatures.

2. **Prepare Your Seedbed:** Choose a well-draining seed starting mix or create your own using equal parts peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite.
3. **Sow with Care:** Sprinkle seeds thinly over the surface of the moistened mix and gently press them down. You don't need to bury them deeply.
4. **Light and Warmth:** Place the seed tray in a bright location, out of direct sunlight. A consistent temperature of around 65-70°F (18-21°C) is perfect for germination.
5. **Keep It Moist:** Ensure the seed starting mix remains consistently moist but not waterlogged. Use a spray bottle to prevent disturbing the seeds.
6. **Patience is a Virtue:** Germination can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks. Once the seedlings emerge and have a couple of sets of true leaves, you can thin them out, leaving the strongest ones to thrive.

Divide and Conquer: Propagating by Division

For established *Arabis auriculata* plants, division is a simple and effective propagation method:

1. **The Right Time:** Divide your plants in the spring or fall when the weather is cool.
2. **Digging Deep:** Carefully lift the entire plant from the ground using a garden fork, ensuring you get as much of the root system as possible.
3. **Division Time:** Gently tease apart the plant into smaller sections, each with a healthy amount of roots and shoots. You can use your hands or a sharp, clean knife.
4. **Replant and Water:** Replant the divisions immediately in their new locations, ensuring the crown of each division is level with the soil surface. Water them in

thoroughly.

Cuttings: A Snippet for New Beginnings

While not as common as seed sowing or division, taking cuttings from your *Arabis auriculata* can be another effective technique:

1. **Choose Wisely:** In the late spring or early summer, select healthy, non-flowering stems for your cuttings.
2. **Making the Cut:** Using a clean, sharp knife or pruners, take cuttings approximately 3-4 inches long. Make the cut just below a leaf node.
3. **Prepare the Cutting:** Remove the lower leaves from the cutting, leaving only a few at the top. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone (optional but helpful).
4. **Planting the Cutting:** Plant the cutting in a pot filled with a well-draining rooting mix, such as a mixture of perlite and vermiculite.
5. **Encourage Rooting:** Create a humid environment by placing a plastic bag over the pot or using a humidity dome. Ensure the cutting receives bright, indirect light.
6. **Patience is Key:** Cuttings can take several weeks to root. Once you see new growth, you'll know your propagation was successful.

By mastering these straightforward techniques, you'll quickly be able to expand your *Arabis auriculata* collection and fill your garden with charming white blooms that bring a touch of elegance to any space.