

Aralia excelsa



Reaching New Heights: Propagating Your Aralia Excelsa (And Why You Should!)

The *Aralia excelsa*, also known as the Japanese Angelica or Angelica Tree, is a showstopper. This fast-growing beauty boasts tropical-looking foliage and adds a touch of drama to any space. Luckily, sharing the *Aralia* love is easy – and rewarding! This comprehensive guide will explore three proven methods for propagating your *Aralia excelsa*:

1. Stem Cuttings: A Classic Choice

Stem cutting propagation is arguably the most popular method for *Aralia excelsa*. It's relatively straightforward and boasts a high success rate. Here's how:

- **Timing is Key:** Spring and early summer are ideal, when the plant actively grows.
- **Select Your Cuttings:** Choose healthy, non-flowering stems about 4-6 inches long.
- **Prepare the Cuttings:** Remove the bottom leaves, leaving 2-3 at the top. Make a clean cut just below a leaf node (the bump where leaves emerge).
- **Rooting Hormone (Optional):** While not mandatory, dipping

the cut end in rooting hormone can encourage faster and more successful rooting.

- **Planting Medium:** Use a well-draining potting mix or a mix of peat moss and perlite.
- **Potting Up:** Plant the cuttings, burying at least one leaf node. Water well and cover the pot with a plastic bag to create a humid environment.
- **Location, Location, Location:** Place the pot in a warm, bright location, out of direct sunlight.
- **Patience is a Virtue:** Keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy. Roots should develop in 4-8 weeks. Once new growth appears, you can transplant your cuttings into individual pots.

2. Division: Sharing is Caring

Division is another straightforward method for propagating *Aralia excelsa*, especially for larger, mature plants. Here's how to do it:

- **Timing is Everything:** Spring, before new growth emerges, is the best time for division.
- **Up and Out:** Gently remove the plant from its pot and shake off excess soil.
- **Divide and Conquer:** Carefully separate the plant into sections, ensuring each section has a healthy amount of roots and shoots.
- **Repotting Time:** Plant each division in a well-draining potting mix and water thoroughly.
- **TLC:** Keep the newly potted divisions in a shady spot for a few weeks to allow them to establish themselves.

3. Seeds: A Test of Patience

While propagating *Aralia excelsa* from seeds is possible, it's less reliable and more time-consuming than other methods. Seeds can have inconsistent germination rates, and it takes longer to grow a mature plant.

- **Sourcing Seeds:** *Aralia excelsa* rarely flowers indoors, making seeds difficult to obtain. You can purchase seeds online or from specialized nurseries.
- **Sowing the Seeds:** Sow the seeds in a well-draining seed starting mix and barely cover them with soil.
- **Warmth and Humidity:** Use a heat mat to maintain a temperature of 70-75°F (21-24°C) and cover the tray with a humidity dome or plastic wrap to retain moisture.
- **Light Show:** Once seedlings emerge, provide them with bright, indirect light.
- **Transplanting Time:** When the seedlings have developed a few sets of true leaves, transplant them into individual pots.

The Joys of Propagation

Propagating your *Aralia excelsa* is a rewarding experience. Not only does it allow you to expand your plant collection affordably, but it also allows you to share the joy of this striking plant with friends and family. Just remember to choose the method that best suits your needs and skill level. And most importantly, have fun! Your *Aralia excelsa* will thank you for it!