

How to Propagate *Calystegia longipes*



Taming the Wild Beauty: How to Propagate *Calystegia longipes* (False Bindweed)

The *Calystegia longipes*, more commonly known as False Bindweed, is a captivating plant with twining stems and delicate, white trumpet-shaped flowers. While often mistaken for its more aggressive cousin, the true Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), this North American native offers a more well-behaved climbing charm, perfect for adding a touch of wild elegance to gardens.

If you're captivated by this graceful climber and want to welcome it into your green space, there are a couple of effective ways to propagate *Calystegia longipes*, both offering satisfying results for gardeners of different skill levels.

Method 1: Taking Root Cuttings

This method, ideal during the dormant season (late fall or early spring), involves harnessing the plant's robust root system:

1. **Careful Extraction:** Gently unearth a section of established *Calystegia longipes*, ensuring you select healthy, firm roots.
2. **Divide and Conquer:** Using a sharp, clean knife or pruning shears, cut the roots into sections roughly 2-3 inches long.
3. **Prepare the Planting Medium:** Choose a well-draining potting mix or create your own using a combination of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite.
4. **Plant the Cuttings:** Position the root sections horizontally in your chosen medium, burying them about an inch deep.
5. **Patience is Key:** Water the cuttings lightly and place them in a warm, bright location out of direct sunlight. It may take several weeks for new growth to emerge.

Method 2: Propagating from Seed

While less common, propagating *Calystegia longipes* from seed can be a rewarding experience:

1. **Seed Collection:** Wait until the flowers fade and small seed pods develop. Allow the pods to dry on the vine before collecting them.
2. **Seed Preparation (Optional):** To enhance germination rates, lightly scarify the seeds. This involves gently rubbing them between two pieces of sandpaper to break down the hard outer layer.
3. **Sowing the Seeds:** Fill seed trays or small pots with a well-draining seed starting mix. Sow the seeds approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep and lightly mist the soil.
4. **Provide Warmth and Light:** Place the trays in a warm, bright location. Maintaining consistent moisture is crucial for germination, which can take anywhere from a

few weeks to a few months.

Caring for your new *Calystegia longipes*:

Once your new plants are established, they are relatively low-maintenance. Provide them with:

- **Support Structure:** A trellis, fence, or obelisk will encourage their natural climbing habit.
- **Well-Drained Soil:** Ensure good drainage to prevent root rot.
- **Moderate Watering:** Water regularly, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings.
- **Sunlight:** While they can tolerate partial shade, *Calystegia longipes* thrives in full sunlight.

With proper care and attention, your propagated *Calystegia longipes* will reward you with their delicate beauty, transforming your garden into a captivating sanctuary of twining vines and graceful flowers. Just remember to keep a watchful eye on their growth, as even this well-behaved bindweed can become enthusiastically widespread in the right conditions.