

# Epimedium grandiflorum



## Unlocking the Secrets of Epimedium Propagation: A Guide to Multiplying Your Barrenwort

Epimedium grandiflorum, affectionately known as Barrenwort or Bishop's Hat, is a beloved garden gem prized for its delicate flowers, shade tolerance, and captivating foliage. If you're lucky enough to have this enchanting perennial gracing your garden, you might be wondering how to propagate it and create even more of its magic.

Fortunately, propagating Epimedium grandiflorum is an achievable endeavor, even for budding gardeners. Here's a comprehensive guide to multiplying your Barrenwort using two effective methods:

### Method 1: Division – The Power of Separation

Division is the most common and arguably the easiest method for propagating Epimedium. This technique involves splitting an established plant into smaller sections, each capable of

independent growth.

**When to Divide:** Early spring, just as new growth emerges, or in early fall is the optimal time for division. This timing allows the divided sections to establish themselves before facing extreme temperatures.

### **Steps for Success:**

1. **Prepare the Plant:** Water your Epimedium thoroughly a day or two before dividing to minimize stress.
2. **Carefully Lift and Divide:** Using a garden fork, gently lift the entire clump from the ground. Depending on the size, you can divide it into sections with a sharp knife or spade. Ensure each division has a good amount of roots and at least 2-3 healthy shoots.
3. **Replanting:** Amend your chosen planting location with compost or other organic matter. Dig holes slightly larger than the root balls of your divisions and space them 12-18 inches apart. Replant the divisions at the same depth they were originally growing.
4. **Post-Division Care:** Water your newly divided plants thoroughly and keep the soil consistently moist until they establish themselves.

### **Method 2: Seed Starting – A Labor of Love**

Propagating Epimedium by seed requires a bit more patience, but it offers a rewarding experience and the chance to witness the plant's complete life cycle.

### **Seed Collection and Sowing:**

1. **Gather Seeds:** After flowering, Epimedium produces seed pods. Allow them to dry on the plant and collect the seeds once the pods begin to split.
2. **Cold Stratification:** Epimedium seeds benefit from a period of cold stratification to mimic natural winter conditions. Place the seeds in a moist paper towel

inside a sealed plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator for 4-6 weeks.

3. **Sowing Time:** Sow the stratified seeds in seed trays or pots filled with a well-draining seed starting mix. Surface sow the seeds and lightly press them into the soil.
4. **Patience is Key:** Keep the seed trays consistently moist and provide bright, indirect light. Germination can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, so be patient.

### **Caring for Your Epimedium Offspring:**

Whether you choose division or seed starting, providing proper care is crucial for the successful propagation of your *Epimedium grandiflorum*. Plant them in a shaded location with well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Water regularly, especially during dry spells, and apply a balanced fertilizer in spring to promote healthy growth.

By mastering these propagation techniques, you can expand your collection of these elegant perennials, filling your garden with the subtle beauty and charm of *Epimedium grandiflorum*.