

Goeppertia cleistantha



Unfurling the Secrets: Propagating Your Goeppertia Cleistantha (Never-Never Plant)

The *Goeppertia cleistantha*, also known as the Never-Never Plant, is a captivating houseplant prized for its dramatic foliage. Large, oval leaves boast a mesmerizing pattern of deep green stripes against a lighter background, reminiscent of an artist's brushstrokes. As if this beauty wasn't enough, the underside reveals a stunning burgundy hue, adding a hidden layer of intrigue.

If you've fallen for this tropical gem and wish to multiply your collection, you're in luck! Propagating *Goeppertia cleistantha*, while slightly different than your typical stem cutting method, is surprisingly achievable. Let's delve into the secrets of successfully expanding your Never-Never Plant family.

Understanding the "Why" of Division

Unlike many houseplants, *Goeppertia cleistantha* doesn't propagate easily from cuttings. Instead, they prefer to expand via underground rhizomes, which are modified stems that grow

horizontally. These rhizomes sprout new roots and shoots, eventually forming clumps. This natural growth pattern forms the basis of our propagation method: division.

Timing is Key

The optimal time to divide your *Goeppertia cleistantha* is during spring, just as the growing season begins. This timing aligns with the plant's natural rhythm, giving the divisions the best chance of success.

Gearing Up for Division

Before you begin, gather the following:

- **Sharp, clean knife or pruning shears:** This ensures clean cuts, minimizing damage to the rhizomes.
- **Clean pots:** Choose pots slightly larger than the divisions you'll be making.
- **Well-draining potting mix:** A mix designed for African violets or a general potting mix amended with perlite or orchid bark works well.
- **Water:** Have a watering can ready for moistening the potting mix.

The Art of Division: A Step-by-Step Guide

1. **Unpotting:** Gently remove your *Goeppertia cleistantha* from its pot.
2. **Examining the Rhizome:** Look for natural divisions in the clump where the rhizome connects different sections of growth. Ideally, each division should have at least two to three leaves and a healthy portion of rhizome attached.
3. **Making the Cut:** Using your sterilized knife or shears, carefully separate the plant into your desired divisions, ensuring each piece has healthy roots and foliage.
4. **Potting Up:** Place each division in its own pot, ensuring

the top of the rhizome is level with the soil surface.

5. **Watering and Settling In:** Water the newly potted divisions thoroughly, allowing excess water to drain. Choose a warm, well-lit location away from direct sunlight for their new home.

Post-Division Care: Nurturing New Beginnings

Maintain a consistently moist but not soggy environment for the newly potted divisions. Avoid overwatering, as this can lead to root rot. Provide humidity through regular misting or by placing the pots on a pebble tray filled with water. Keep an eye out for new growth, a sure sign that your divisions are thriving.

Patience is a Virtue

Remember, patience is crucial when propagating *Goeppertia cleistantha*. It may take several weeks or even months for the divisions to establish themselves fully. But with careful attention and a bit of TLC, you'll soon be enjoying a flourishing family of these captivating plants.

By following these steps and embracing the rewarding process of propagation, you can multiply your *Goeppertia cleistantha* collection and share its beauty with fellow plant enthusiasts.