

# Hibbertia empetrifolia



## Multiplying Sunshine: How to Propagate the Cheerful Hibbertia empetrifolia

If you're searching for a burst of sunshine in your garden, look no further than the Hibbertia empetrifolia, also known endearingly as the Tangled Guinea Flower. This low-growing Australian native charms with its fine, needle-like foliage and a profusion of bright yellow, star-shaped blooms throughout spring and summer. And the best part? Propagating Hibbertia empetrifolia is an achievable endeavor for green thumbs of all levels. Let's explore the two most effective methods:

### Method 1: Taking Cuttings

Propagating Hibbertia from cuttings is a rewarding experience with a high success rate. Here's a step-by-step guide:

**1. Timing is Key:** The ideal time for taking cuttings is late spring or early summer, when the plant is actively growing.

## **2. Gather Your Tools:** You'll need:

- Sharp, clean pruning shears or a sharp knife
- Seedling trays or small pots
- Free-draining propagation mix (a combination of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite works well)
- Rooting hormone (optional, but recommended)

**3. Select Healthy Stems:** Choose non-flowering stems that are firm and healthy, about 3-4 inches long.

## **4. Prepare the Cutting:**

- Make a clean cut just below a leaf node (where the leaf joins the stem).
- Remove any leaves from the bottom inch of the cutting.

**5. Treat with Rooting Hormone (Optional):** Dip the base of the cutting in rooting hormone powder or gel to encourage root development.

## **6. Plant the Cutting:**

- Fill the pots or tray with propagation mix and water well.
- Make a small hole in the mix with your finger or a pencil.
- Gently insert the cutting into the hole and firm the soil around it.

**7. Create a Humid Environment:** To encourage rooting, cover the cuttings with a clear plastic bag or humidity dome. This helps retain moisture and creates a warm, humid environment.

**8. Provide Indirect Light:** Place the cuttings in a well-lit area, but out of direct sunlight. Direct sun can scorch the cuttings before they develop roots.

**9. Water Regularly:** Check the moisture level of the propagation mix and water lightly whenever it feels dry to the

touch. Avoid overwatering, which can lead to root rot.

**10. Be Patient:** Rooting can take several weeks to a couple of months. You'll know roots have formed when you see new growth on the cutting.

## **Method 2: Growing from Seed**

While slightly less common, growing *Hibbertia empetrifolia* from seed can be a fun and rewarding option.

**1. Collect Seeds:** After the flowers fade, the plant will produce small seedpods. Harvest the pods when they turn brown and dry.

**2. Prepare the Seeds:** Gently crush the pods to release the small, black seeds.

**3. Sow the Seeds:** Fill seed trays with a well-draining seed-raising mix. Sprinkle the seeds over the surface and lightly cover them with a thin layer of mix.

**4. Water and Provide Light:** Mist the seeds with water and cover the tray with a clear plastic wrap or humidity dome to create a warm, humid environment. Place the tray in a bright location, but out of direct sunlight.

**5. Thin Out Seedlings:** Once the seedlings emerge, thin them out, leaving the strongest ones to grow.

**6. Transplant:** When the seedlings are large enough to handle, transplant them into individual pots filled with a well-draining potting mix.

## **Nurturing Your Hibbertia**

Whether you choose to propagate by cuttings or seeds, once your new *Hibbertia* plants are established, they are relatively low-maintenance. They prefer a sunny location with well-drained soil and benefit from regular pruning to maintain

their shape and encourage bushier growth.

With a little patience and care, you can easily multiply your sunny *Hibbertia empetrifolia*, adding vibrant color and cheerful charm to your garden for years to come.