

Iberodes littoralis



Taming the Coastal Beauty: Propagating Iberis sempervirens (Everest Snow)

The *Iberis sempervirens*, more commonly known as Everest Snow, is a delightful groundcover plant prized for its abundant clusters of snow-white flowers that burst forth in spring, often with a second bloom in fall. This low-maintenance beauty, with its evergreen foliage, can add a touch of alpine charm to even the most demanding gardens. But what if you want to multiply this snowy wonder without breaking the bank? That's where propagation comes in!

There are two main methods to propagate Everest Snow: **cuttings** and **division**. Both offer relatively easy routes to expand your plant collection, offering an enjoyable experience for both seasoned gardeners and green thumbs in the making.

1. Cuttings: Cloning Your Coastal Gem

Taking cuttings is akin to creating clones of your existing Everest Snow plant. This method involves snipping off a healthy stem and encouraging it to develop roots, ultimately

forming an independent plant.

Here's how:

- **Timing is Key:** The best time for cuttings is late spring or early summer, after the first flush of flowers has faded.
- **Choose Wisely:** Select healthy, non-flowering stems about 3-4 inches long. Look for stems with new growth at the tips.
- **Prepare the Cuttings:** Using a clean, sharp knife or pruning shears, make a cut just below a leaf node (the point where a leaf emerges from the stem).
- **Hormone Boost (Optional):** Dip the cut end in rooting hormone to encourage faster root development.
- **Planting Time:** Plant the cuttings in a pot filled with a well-draining potting mix, burying the bottom node.
- **Creating Humidity:** Cover the pot with a plastic bag or use a propagation dome to maintain humidity.
- **Light and Water:** Place the pot in a bright location, out of direct sunlight. Keep the soil evenly moist but not waterlogged.
- **Patience is a Virtue:** It takes approximately 4-6 weeks for roots to establish. Once you see new growth, you'll know your cuttings have rooted successfully.

2. Division: Sharing the Bounty

Division is another straightforward method, especially effective for mature Everest Snow plants forming clumps.

Follow these steps:

- **When to Divide:** Early spring or early fall, when the plant is not in active growth, are the ideal times for division.
- **Unearth the Plant:** Carefully dig up the entire plant, ensuring you get most of the root system.
- **Divide and Conquer:** Gently separate the clump into

smaller sections, each with a good amount of roots and shoots.

- **Replanting:** Choose a sunny or partially shaded location with well-drained soil. Dig holes slightly larger than the root ball of each division and space them about 12-18 inches apart.
- **Water Well:** Give your newly planted divisions a good watering to help them settle in.

Nurturing Your New Plants:

Whether you choose cuttings or division, your young Everest Snow plants will thrive with minimal care. Provide them with well-drained soil, regular watering, and a sunny or partially shaded location. They are relatively pest and disease-free, making them a low-maintenance addition to any garden.

Propagating your own Everest Snow plants is an inexpensive and rewarding way to increase your plant collection while enjoying the satisfaction of nurturing new life. So why not give it a try? You might just surprise yourself with your green thumb prowess!