

How to Propagate *Ligustrum vulgare*



From Snipping to Thriving: Easy Propagation of the Versatile Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

The common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), a hardy and adaptable shrub, offers beautiful foliage, fragrant blooms, and vibrant berries – making it a popular choice for hedges, screens, and even Bonsai. But did you know you can easily create new privet plants from cuttings? That's right, with a few simple steps, you can turn a small snip of your existing privet into a brand new plant, expanding your garden with ease. Let's explore the simple process of privet propagation:

Choosing Your Cuttings:

The key to successful propagation is selecting the right cutting. Look for healthy, non-flowering stems that are about 6 inches long and pencil-thick. Take your cuttings from the new growth, ideally from the middle or upper section of a

branch. The ideal time for this is during the spring or summer, when active growth is occurring.

Preparing the Cuttings:

Once you have your cuttings, prepare them for planting. Make a clean cut just below a node, which is the area where a leaf or branch grows out of the stem. Remove any leaves below the soil line, as these will rot in the soil. To encourage root development, you can also dip the bottom of the cutting in rooting hormone.

Starting Your Cuttings:

For optimal root development, you have two main options:

1. **Planting in Soil:** Fill a pot or seedling tray with a well-draining potting mix. Make a small hole in the soil for each cutting and insert it, ensuring the bottom two nodes are covered with soil. Water gently, making sure the soil is moist but not soggy.
2. **Starting in Water:** In a clear glass or vase, fill it with fresh water and place your cuttings in the water, ensuring the bottom two nodes are submerged. Change the water every few days for optimal results. Roots will typically form within a few weeks.

Providing the Ideal Conditions:

For successful propagation, create a warm, moist, and humid environment:

- **Location:** Choose a bright, indirect location for your cuttings, avoiding direct sunlight. Indoors, a warm window sill or even a mini-greenhouse is ideal.
- **Light:** Ensure your cuttings are in a well-lit location, but avoid direct sun. Insufficient light can lead to weak growth and reduced root development.
- **Temperature:** Maintaining a temperature between 65°F and

75°F is ideal for optimal root development.

- **Humidity:** Keeping the air moist around the cuttings is important. You can achieve this by misting the cuttings daily or using a humidity dome.

Maintaining Your Cuttings:

- **Watering:** Check the moisture levels every few days and water when the soil feels dry to the touch. Avoid over-watering, as this can lead to root rot.
- **Fertilizing:** Once you see signs of growth, you can start fertilizing with a diluted, balanced fertilizer solution every couple of weeks to encourage healthy development.

Transplanting:

Once your cuttings have established roots, typically within a few weeks to a couple of months, you can transplant them into individual pots or directly into the garden. Select a location that suits the plant's needs, whether sunny or shaded.

By understanding the process and following these simple tips, you can easily propagate your own *Ligustrum vulgare* plants from cuttings, expanding your garden and enjoying the beauty and versatility of this readily available shrub. Propagation isn't just about creating new plants; it's also a rewarding and fulfilling experience that connects you to the wonders of nature. So, grab your pruning shears and start creating your own miniature privet forest!