

# How to Propagate Pachyphytum caesium



## Moonstones from Cuttings: Propagating Pachyphytum Caesium, the “Graptopetalum” That’s Not

The Pachyphytum caesium, with its captivating silvery-blue leaves reminiscent of moonstones, is a popular succulent sought after for its unique beauty and relatively easy care. But what truly makes this plant special is its simple and effective propagation method, allowing you to easily expand your collection or share these beauties with friends.

**A Quick Note on Names:** While commonly called “Graptopetalum caesium,” these plants are actually members of the Pachyphytum genus. This distinction is often overlooked, making propagation information a little confusing. Don’t worry – we’re here to clear things up!

**The Joy of Leaf Cuttings:** Pachyphytum caesium is a master of leaf propagation, meaning you can start new plants from just a

single leaf! Here's how to do it:

1. **Choose Healthy Leaves:** Select plump, healthy leaves from your mature *Pachyphytum caesium* plant. Avoid any that are damaged, discolored, or soft.
2. **Carefully Remove:** Gently twist or pull the leaf off the plant at its base, ensuring there's no damage to either the leaf or the parent plant.
3. **Let Them Dry:** To prevent rotting, allow the leaf cuttings to callous over for a few days. This allows the wound to heal and a protective layer to form. Place them on a paper towel or a dry, well-ventilated surface.
4. **Planting Time:** After the callous forms, gently insert the base of the leaf into a well-draining succulent potting mix. You can either plant them directly into small pots or use a seed tray for easier management.
5. **Patience is Key:** Keep the potting mix lightly moist but ensure it doesn't become soggy. Roots will start to form over the next few weeks, and you'll soon see new plantlets emerging from the base of the leaf.
6. **Enjoy Your New Plants:** Once the seedlings are a few inches tall and have developed their own root system, you can transplant them into individual pots.

**Beyond Leaf Cuttings:** While leaf cuttings are the most common method, you can also propagate *Pachyphytum caesium* through stem cuttings. Simply cut a healthy piece of stem (around 2-3 inches long), remove the bottom leaves, and let it callous over before placing it in a well-draining potting mix.

### **Tips for Success:**

- **Sunlight is Key:** *Pachyphytum caesium* thrives in bright, indirect sunlight, so ensure your propagation setup receives adequate light.
- **Water Wisely:** Overwatering is the biggest danger when propagating these succulents. Only water when the soil is completely dry to prevent root rot.

- **Beware Pests:** Keep an eye out for mealybugs, aphids, or other pests that might attack the delicate seedlings.

### **The Beauty of Propagation:**

Not only is propagation a cost-effective way to expand your succulent collection, but it also allows you to share these beautiful plants with others. Imagine gifting a friend a pot filled with miniature moonstones – a gift that continues to grow and inspire.

So, try your hand at propagating *Pachyphytum caesium* and experience the thrill of watching new life emerge from a single leaf. It's an experience that will undoubtedly leave you moonstruck!