

# How to Propagate *Philadelphus lewisii*



## From One to Many: Propagating Your Own Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

The sweet scent of mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) wafting through the air on a summer breeze is a truly magical experience. This beautiful, flowering shrub is a beloved addition to gardens across North America, known for its delicate white blossoms and unmistakable fragrance. But have you ever considered growing your own mock orange from cuttings?

Propagating your own plants is a rewarding and surprisingly simple way to expand your garden and share the beauty of mock orange with others. Here's a guide to help you successfully propagate your own *Philadelphus lewisii*:

The Magic of [Softwood Cuttings](#)

For best results with mock orange, softwood cuttings are the preferred method. These cuttings are taken from the new, flexible growth of the current year's branches, usually in late spring to early summer.

### **Step-by-Step Guide to Softwood Propagation**

- 1. Select Your Cuttings:** Choose healthy, non-flowering stems with good growth. The ideal cutting should be about 4-6 inches long, with at least 4-5 leaves.
- 2. Prepare the Cuttings:** Make a clean cut just below a node (the point where the leaves attach to the stem). Remove the bottom two sets of leaves to create a smooth surface for rooting.
- 3. Root Hormone (Optional):** Applying a rooting hormone to the cut end can encourage root formation. Dip the cut ends of the cuttings in a rooting hormone powder or liquid.
- 4. The Planting Medium:** A mixture of equal parts peat moss and perlite or vermiculite provides excellent drainage and aeration for root development. Fill small pots or a propagation tray with this rooting mix.
- 5. Planting the Cuttings:** Make a hole in the planting medium deep enough to accommodate the cut end of the cutting. Place the cutting in the hole, ensuring the bottom two nodes are buried in the soil. Gently firm the soil around the base.
- 6. Water and Mist:** Water the cuttings thoroughly and keep the soil moist but not soggy. Mist the cuttings daily to maintain humidity.
- 7. Provide the Right Conditions:** The rooting process thrives in warm and humid conditions. You can create a mini-greenhouse by covering the pots with a plastic dome

or a clear plastic bag to maintain humidity. Place the cuttings in a bright, but indirect, location.

**8. Patience is Key:** Root development typically takes 4-6 weeks. Do not be discouraged if you do not see noticeable growth immediately. Be patient, and continue to maintain the moist environment.

**9. Signs of Success:** New growth at the top of the cuttings signals root formation. Once the roots have developed, you can slowly acclimate the young plants to the outdoors.

## **Caring for Your New Plants**

Once the cuttings have established roots, you can transplant them into larger pots or directly into your garden. Be sure to choose a location with well-draining soil and plenty of sunshine. Continue to water your new plants regularly, especially during dry periods.

## **Beyond Propagation**

Propagating your own mock orange is not only a way to expand your garden, it's also a fantastic way to share the beauty of this special plant with friends and family. Consider gifting a few rooted cuttings to others, and spread the fragrant joy!

Remember, propagation is a journey of patience and joy. With a little care and the right conditions, you can easily grow your own mock orange from cuttings and enjoy the sweet scent of its blooms for years to come.