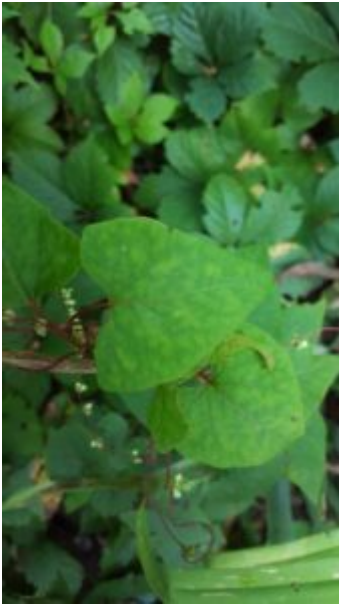


Polygonum cilinode



Taming the Tangles: Propagating Polygonum cilinode (Fringed Black Bindweed)

Polygonum cilinode, more commonly known as Fringed Black Bindweed, might sound like a mouthful, but don't let the name fool you. This North American native vine can be a charming addition to your garden, thanks to its delicate heart-shaped leaves, charming white flower clusters, and vibrant autumn foliage. While often overlooked, its rapid growth and ability to thrive in challenging conditions make it a fantastic option for ground cover or cascading from containers.

If you're looking to introduce this easy-to-grow beauty into your landscape, you'll be pleased to know that propagating Polygonum cilinode is a breeze. Here's a look at the different methods you can use:

1. Seeds:

- **Timing is Key:** Collect seeds from mature, dried flower

heads in late summer or early fall.

- **Direct Sowing:** You can sow seeds directly outdoors in fall for natural stratification (exposure to winter cold), which aids germination. Choose a well-drained spot and lightly rake the seeds into the soil.
- **Starting Indoors:** Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost. Sow seeds in a seed-starting mix and keep them consistently moist. Transplant outdoors after the danger of frost has passed.

2. Cuttings:

- **Prime Time:** Take [softwood cuttings](#) (from new growth) in late spring or early summer.
- **Cut and Prep:** Select healthy stems and take cuttings about 4-6 inches long, making a clean cut just below a leaf node. Remove the lower leaves, leaving a couple at the top.
- **Root Development:** Dip the cut end in a rooting hormone (optional but helpful) and then plant the cutting in a pot filled with a moist, well-draining potting mix.
- **Encourage Growth:** Cover the pot with a clear plastic bag to create a humid environment. Place in indirect light and keep the soil consistently moist. Roots should develop in a few weeks, at which point you can remove the bag and begin acclimating the cutting to outdoor conditions before transplanting.

3. Layering:

- **Nature's Way:** Layering is a natural propagation method where a section of the plant's stem develops roots while still attached to the parent plant.
- **Simple Steps:** Select a long, flexible stem and gently wound it (make a slight cut) at a point where it touches the ground. Bury the wounded section under a thin layer of soil, keeping it secured with a rock or landscape staple.

- **Patience is Key:** Keep the soil moist and be patient, as rooting can take a few weeks to months. Once roots are established, you can sever the layered section from the parent plant and transplant it.

Caring for Your New Propagations:

Polygonum cilinode is relatively low-maintenance. Plant in well-drained soil and provide moderate watering. It tolerates a wide range of light conditions, from full sun to part shade. Be mindful, however, that it can become vigorous, so consider giving it ample space or planting it where it can ramble freely without overpowering other plants.

With a little effort, you can easily propagate *Polygonum cilinode* and enjoy the beauty of this adaptable vine in your own garden. Whether cascading over a rocky slope, weaving its way through a wildflower meadow, or gracing your mailbox with lush greenery, Fringed Black Bindweed is sure to captivate with its delicate charm and effortless growth.