

How to Propagate Prunus cyclamina



Waking Up the Sleeping Beauty: Propagating the Enchanting Prunus Cyclamina

The *Prunus cyclamina*, also known as the Cyclamen Cherry, is a sight to behold. With its early blooming, pendulous flowers reminiscent of its namesake, the cyclamen, this small tree brings a touch of magic to early spring. While readily available at nurseries, there's a special satisfaction in propagating your own *Prunus cyclamina*. It's a rewarding endeavor that's surprisingly achievable, even for gardening enthusiasts with a beginner's green thumb. Let's delve into the world of propagating this enchanting tree and bring a bit of its cascading beauty to your own backyard.

Method 1: Hardwood Cuttings – A Patient Approach for Bountiful Results

Hardwood cutting is the most common and reliable method for propagating *Prunus cyclamina*. Here's how to do it:

- 1. Timing is Key:** Take your cuttings during the dormant season, ideally in late fall or early winter, after leaf

drop.

2. **Selecting Your Cuttings:** Look for healthy, one-year-old wood from the current year's growth. Each cutting should be about 6-8 inches long with at least 3-4 nodes.
3. **Preparing the Cuttings:** Make a clean cut just below a node at the base and a slanted cut above a node at the top. Remove any leaves from the lower half of the cutting.
4. **Encouraging Root Development:** Dip the bottom inch of the cutting into rooting hormone powder to stimulate root growth.
5. **Planting the Cuttings:** Plant them in a well-draining potting mix, ensuring at least two nodes are buried.
6. **Patience is a Virtue:** Keep the cuttings in a cool, protected area with indirect sunlight. Water regularly to keep the soil lightly moist, but not waterlogged.
7. **Transplanting Success:** It will take several months for roots to develop. Once new growth appears in spring, you can transplant your rooted cuttings to larger pots or their permanent location in the garden.

Method 2: [Softwood Cuttings](#) – A Quicker Option with Varying Success

Softwood cuttings offer a faster option, although they tend to be slightly less reliable than hardwood cuttings.

1. **Prime Time Cutting:** Take softwood cuttings in late spring or early summer from new growth that is flexible and not yet woody.
2. **Follow Familiar Steps:** Follow steps 2-7 from the Hardwood Cuttings section.
3. **Increased Humidity is Key:** Softwood cuttings need higher humidity to thrive. Consider creating a humidity dome by covering the pot with a clear plastic bag supported by sticks.

Additional Tips for Propagation Success:

- **Sterilize Your Tools:** Cleanse your cutting tools with rubbing alcohol before and after use to prevent the spread of diseases.
- **Choose the Right Location:** Plant your *Prunus cyclamina* in well-drained soil with full sun to partial shade for optimal growth.
- **Provide Tender Loving Care:** Water your newly propagated trees regularly, especially during dry periods, and fertilize them in spring with a balanced fertilizer.

Propagating your own *Prunus cyclamina* is a journey that requires patience and a bit of dedication, but the rewards are plentiful. By following these guidelines, you can increase your chances of success and enjoy the enchanting beauty of these self-grown flowering wonders for years to come. Enjoy the process and the blossoming reward!