

Stapelia glanduliflora



Multiplying the Marvel: Propagating Your Very Own Stapelia glanduliflora

The *Stapelia glanduliflora*, a truly unique succulent with its starfish-shaped blooms and intriguing aroma, might seem like a plant only for experienced collectors. But did you know that propagating this fascinating species is easier than you might think? Whether you're looking to expand your collection or share the wonder with a fellow plant enthusiast, getting your *Stapelia glanduliflora* to multiply is a rewarding experience.

This guide explores two common and effective propagation techniques:

1. Stem Cuttings: The Go-to Method

Stem cuttings are the most popular and generally successful method for propagating *Stapelia glanduliflora*. Here's how to do it:

- **Timing is Key:** Spring or early summer, when the plant is actively growing, is the best time to take cuttings.
- **Choose Wisely:** Select a healthy stem that is firm and

free of any damage or disease.

- **Make the Cut:** Using a sharp, sterilized knife or shears, cut a stem section approximately 3-4 inches long. Make a clean cut just below a node (the slightly raised area where leaves or branches emerge).
- **Let it Callus:** Allow the cut end of the stem to dry and callus over for a few days to a week. This helps prevent rot when planted.
- **Ready to Plant:** Fill a small pot with a well-draining soil mix specifically formulated for succulents or cacti. Make a small hole in the soil and gently insert the callused end of the cutting, burying it about an inch deep.
- **Indirect Light and Patience:** Place the pot in a location with bright, indirect sunlight. Water sparingly, allowing the soil to dry out completely between waterings. It may take several weeks for roots to develop.

2. Division: Separating for Success

If your *Stapelia glanduliflora* is already a mature plant with multiple stems growing from the base, division is a simple and effective propagation method. Here's how it's done:

- **Unpot and Divide:** Carefully remove the entire plant from its pot and gently loosen the soil around the roots.
- **Identify Clumps:** Look for natural divisions or clumps of stems that can be separated.
- **Separate Carefully:** Using clean hands or a sharp, sterilized knife, carefully separate the clumps, ensuring each division has a good amount of roots attached.
- **Potting Your Divisions:** Plant each division in its own pot filled with well-draining succulent or cacti mix. Water sparingly, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings.

A Few Tips for Success:

- **Be patient:** It can take several weeks or even months for your new *Stapelia* plants to become established. Don't be discouraged if you don't see results immediately.
- **Less is more with watering:** *Stapelia glanduliflora* are succulents and are very susceptible to root rot if overwatered.
- **Well-draining soil is crucial:** To further prevent rot, ensure the soil mix you use allows for proper drainage.

Propagating your *Stapelia glanduliflora* is an exciting way to grow your plant collection and share the joy of this unique species. With a bit of patience and care, you'll be rewarded with new plants to enjoy for years to come!