

# Propagation Of *Utricularia* By Leaf Cuttings

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Use of leaf cuttings is a method employed for the propagation of many carnivorous plant genera. *Drosera*, *Dionaea*, *Pinguicula*, *Cephalotus* and even *Sarracenia*, *Darlingtonia*, and *Heliamphora* can be propagated successfully by leaf cuttings. Accidentally, and then through experimentation, it became evident to me that it is possible to propagate *Utricularia* by leaf cuttings. It is especially effective when more than one species of *Utricularia* share the same pot and they need to be separated. I should also say that *U. subulata* has the annoying habit of popping up in the greenhouse in undesirable places.

If more plants are desired than can be supplied and the mother plant should be saved it is easier to take a leaf cutting of that particular *Utricularia* species than to divide a beautiful clump of *Utricularia*. These are reasons enough to try taking leaf cuttings for the propagation of *Utricularia*.

I have found propagation of *Utricularia* by leaf cuttings to be very simple. Fill a pot with the usual medium in which the mother plant grows. For terrestrials it is a mixture of Sphagnum, peat moss and sand, and for the epiphytes it is a mixture of Sphagnum, peat moss and cypress mulch. The plants which give the best results are those that have young, fresh growth and the plant should be mature. The leaf is planted in the soil with its base well covered with the desired medium (in the case of *U. longifolia* it is necessary to cut the leaves into pieces about 1 inch in length). *U. nephrophylla*, and probably *U. reniformis*, must be taken and placed flat onto the soil with as much of the petiole covered horizontally as possible. *U. reniformis* may have to be experimented with since I do not grow that species. Leaves of *U. monanthos*, *U. pubescens* and similarly small species are taken and half covered, leaving the rest exposed to the light. The light level should be about half of what *Drosera* receive. The temperature should be between 68 and 86 degrees F (20 to 30 degrees C) and the humidity should be very high.

It takes varying lengths of time for the different species of *Utricularia* to show results. Under my conditions the average length of time is about 3 weeks. It takes *U. longifolia*, *U. calycifida* and a species from Venezuela about two weeks. A well established plant becomes available in about 2 months. *U. nephrophylla* and a species received from Rio de Janeiro take about 4 weeks for growth to be visible; a plant is available the next growing season. *U. monanthos* and *U. pubescens* take about 6 weeks for noticeable growth. A time period of 6 months is necessary for the smaller species to become well established. I have not yet tried *U. asplundii*, *U. humboldtii* and *U. quelchii* but I have a feeling it might work. The only way to determine whether the plant is established well enough to transplant is by using your best judgment. I use this propagation method commonly for the rarer species since I do not wish to divide a beautiful clump.

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## Want Ad

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WANTED TO BUY: Seeds, cutting, plants, etc. of *Heliamphora* & other Tepuiana as well as RARE *Nepenthes*. I am presently successfully cultivating several of these species, though trade material is, at best, limited. Please correspond if you are actively cultivating these species.