

Source: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/strawberry/growing-strawberry-runners.htm#:~:text=Fill%20the%20pots%20with%20moist,away%20from%20the%20mother%20plant.>

Got [strawberries](#)? Want some more? It's easy to grow additional strawberry plants for yourself, friends and family through strawberry propagation. So if you've ever wondered what to do with strawberry runners, wonder no more.

What are Strawberry Plant Runners?

Most varieties of strawberries produce runners, also known as stolons. These runners will eventually develop their own roots, resulting in a clone plant. Once these adventitious roots establish in the soil, the runners begin to dry up and shrivel away. For this reason, using strawberry plant runners for propagation makes it especially easy to make more plants.



When to Cut Strawberry Runners

Since many people choose to pinch out runners in order to allow plants to concentrate their energy on making large fruits, you can cut them off as they appear and pot them up rather than simply tossing them. However, most people think late summer or fall is an ideal time for when to cut strawberry runners, just prior to [winter mulching](#). Basically, anytime between spring and fall is okay as long as the runners have produced adequate root growth.

Strawberry plants usually send out a number of runners, so choosing some for cutting shouldn't be too difficult. Depending on how many you want to grow, three or four should be good to start with. Carefully pull each runner away from the mother plant. Keep the closest runners to the mother plant for propagating, as these are the strongest and pinch out and discard those that are the furthest away.

Growing Strawberry Runners

While you can leave the runners to root where they are, it usually helps to let them root in a container of their own so you won't have to dig up the new plant later. Again, this is personal preference. If you choose to root in a pot, go with something about 3-4 inches in diameter. **Fill the pots with moist peat and sand and then sink them into the ground near the mother plant.**

Lay each runner on top of the potting medium and anchor in place with a rock or piece of wire. Water thoroughly. Then in about four to six weeks there should be enough root growth to clip them away from the mother plant. You can then remove the pot from the ground and give the plants away to others or transplant them to another location in the garden.

Leaf propagation

Quick facts

Suitable for: Mostly tender indoor plants and succulents

Timing: Spring to early summer for the best results

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Suitable for...

Plants such as *Streptocarpus*, *Sansevieria*, *Eucomis*, *Sinningia* (syn. *Gloxinia*), *Begonia masoniana* and *B. rex* hybrids can be propagated from part-leaf cuttings.

Taking whole leaf cuttings is a suitable method of propagation for plants such as *Sinningia* (syn. *Gloxinia*), African violet (*Streptocarpus* syn. *Saintpaulia*) and *Peperomia*.

Succulents such as *Kalanchoe*, *Echeveria*, and *Crassula* (for example *Crassula ovata* – the jade plant) are very successful when propagated by leaf cuttings.

Tender sedums (e.g. *Sedum rubrum*, *Sedum hintonii*, *Sedum morganianum*) as well as the hardy herbaceous perennial *Hylotelephium spectabile* can also be propagated from leaf cuttings.

When to take leaf cuttings

Leaf cuttings are best taken early in the growing season from spring to early summer, though some can be propagated any time of year.

How to take leaf cuttings

Always select healthy, young, fully grown foliage. Avoid any damaged, diseased material or leaves affected by pests. Use pot or trays filled with free draining compost such as seed and cutting compost or mix equal quantities of multipurpose compost and sharp sand or perlite.

Part-leaf cuttings

***Streptocarpus*:** Select a full-grown leaf and cut in half along the midrib, which should be discarded. Using a seed tray make a shallow trench and insert the leaf, cut side down and firm in.

***Sansevieria, Eucomis*:** Cut leaves horizontally into 5cm (2in) pieces and insert lower edge down. Make sure to keep the cuttings facing the direction that it was growing on the plant, alternatively cut into shallow chevrons. Insert the cuttings vertically about 2cm (3/4in) deep.

***Begonia, Sinningia*:** Cut across the main veins on the underside. Pin the leaf, cut side down onto the compost. Alternatively, cut the leaf into squares 2.5cm (1in) across each with a main vein. Pin the squares to the surface of the compost.

Aftercare

- Water and allow to drain. Place in a propagator or a clear plastic bag in a light place out of direct sunlight. Leaf cuttings from tropical plants must be kept in high humidity at about 20°C (68°F).
- When plantlets form, remove covers and allow them to grow on until large enough to pot up individually.

Whole-leaf cuttings

***Sinningia* (syn. *Gloxinia*), *Streptocarpus* (African violet, syn.**

***Saintpaulia*), *Peperomia*:** Cut the leaves with the stalk intact from the parent plant. Using pots, insert with the base of each leaf just touching the surface and treat as for part-leaf cuttings.

***Kalanchoe, Echeveria, Crassula*:** Leaf cuttings of succulents should be left a day or two to callus (the cut surface thickens) before potting. Insert into pots filled to three-quarters depth with two parts cactus compost to one part fine grit, topped off with fine grit. Do not cover. Place in warm position and good light. Keep the compost just slightly moist.

Problems

The cutting will be prone to rotting off if the compost is too wet. Water carefully and air the cuttings about twice a week and remove any decaying leaves promptly. This will help reduce problems with grey mould.

The development of the plantlets will slow at low temperatures. Keep the cuttings at about 20°C (68°F).

Poor growth can be caused by low light levels. Place in a well lit place but protect from direct sunshine.

Watch out for pests such as aphids, whitefly and mealybug.