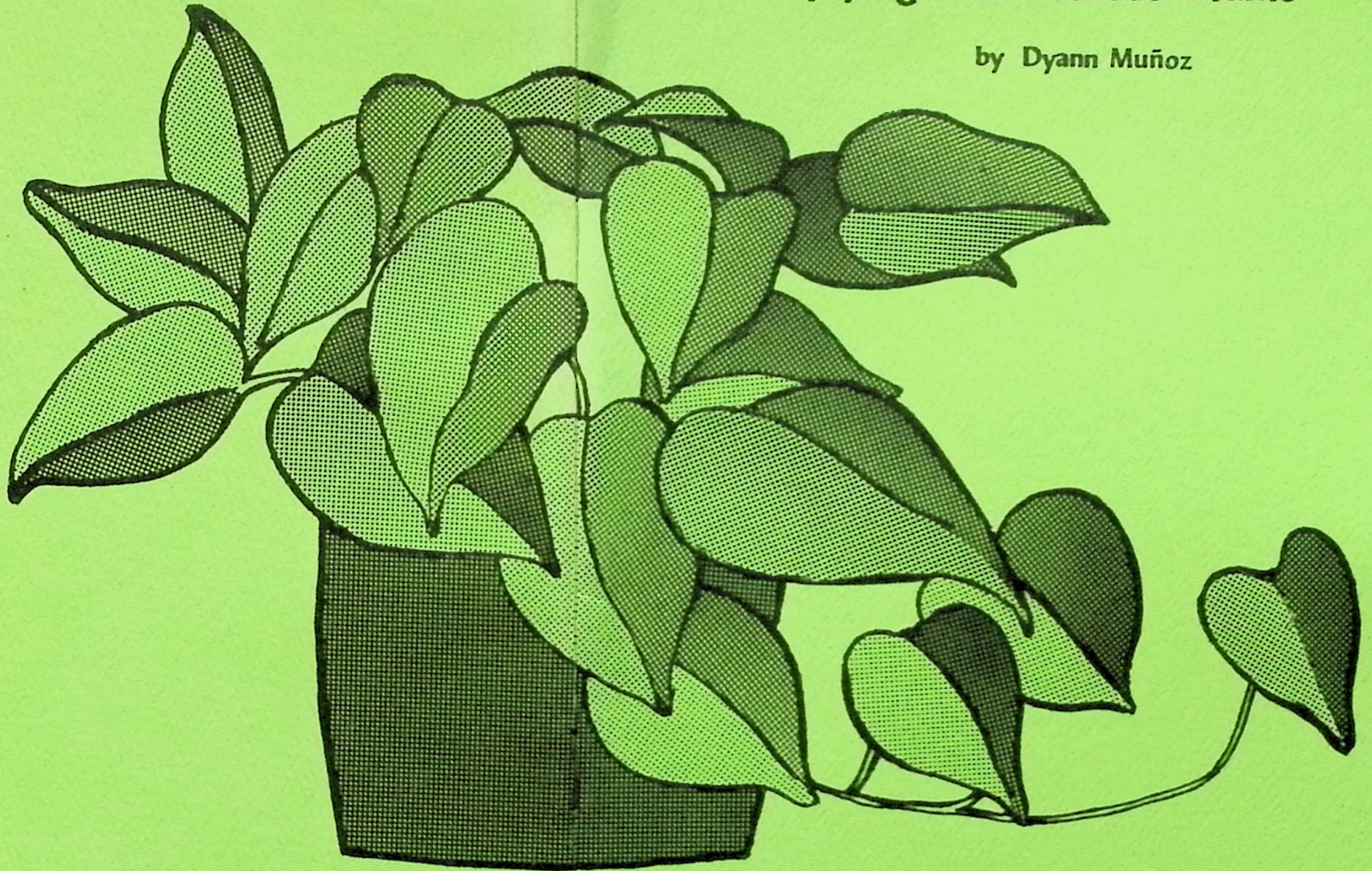


Multiplying Your House Plants

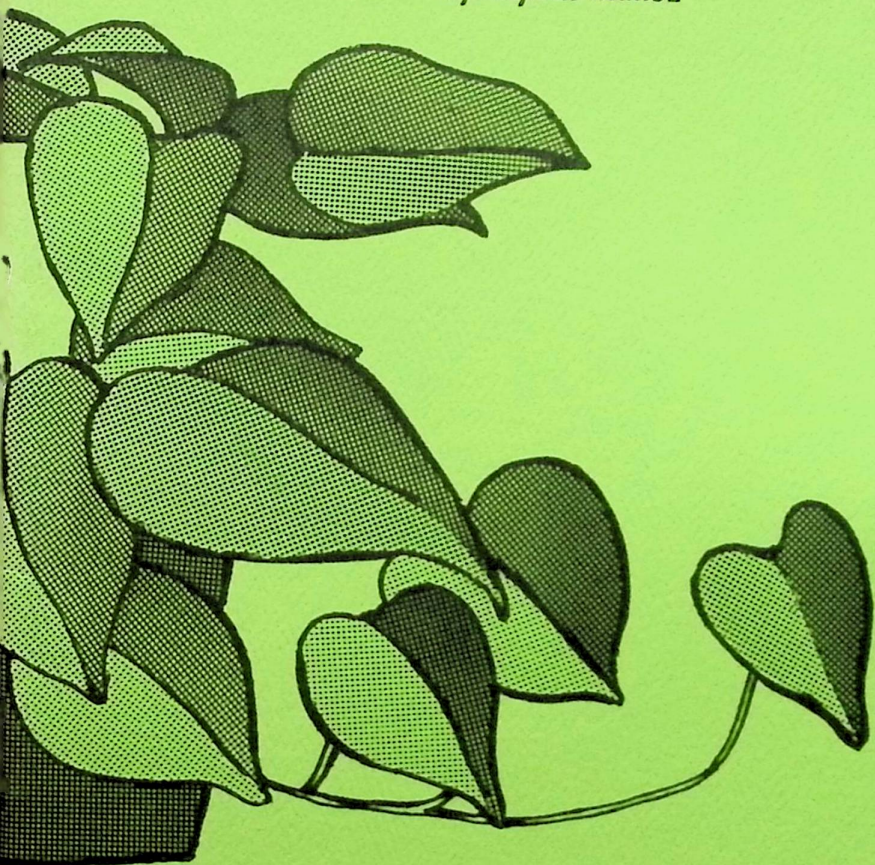
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MULTIPLYING YOUR HOUSE PLANTS

By Dyann Muñoz

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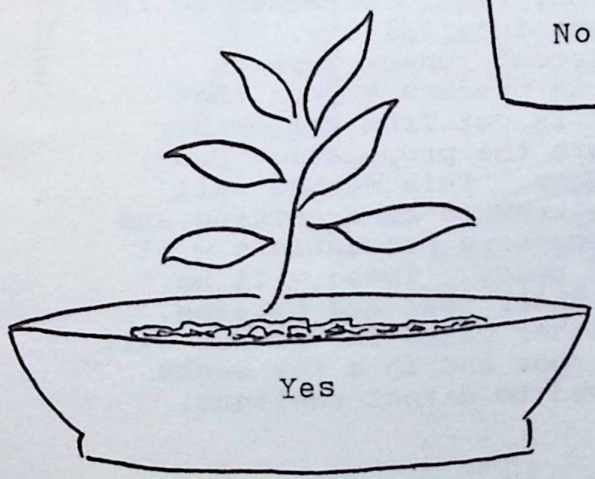
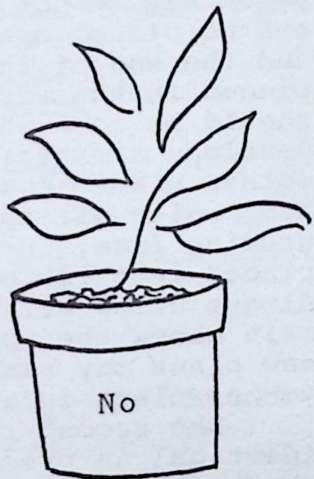
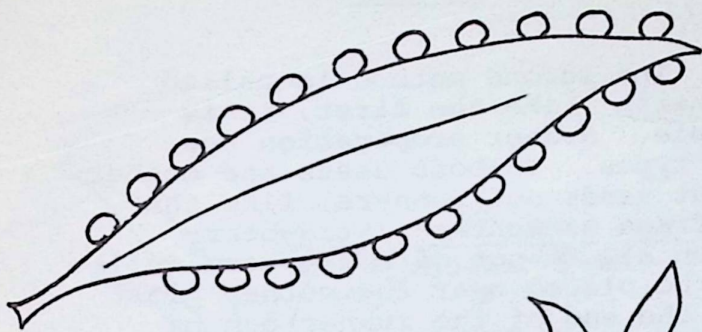
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VIVIPOROUS

The first method of propagation is the easiest because the mother plant does all the work; however, it requires the cooperation of man. This method is called Viviporous. The most popular house plant that reproduces itself in this way is called Bryophyllum-kalanchoea or better known as Mother of Thousands. Along its thick, succulent leaves little beads will appear, looking somewhat like tiny lima beans and about 1/4 inch in diameter. These will produce plants as a seed would, given the proper conditions. The mother plant sheds the seeds and they must fall on soil. If this plant is in a regular clay pot according to the plant's size, all hope for new plants is in vain. Long dishes or planters with several inches of soil on either side would be ideal. The time to repot this plant into desired containers is before the seeds appear. Each seed will produce a new plant. Thin out some of the seeds if there seems to be overcrowding. New plants will form rapidly. The seedlings can be repotted individually when they are about two inches tall.

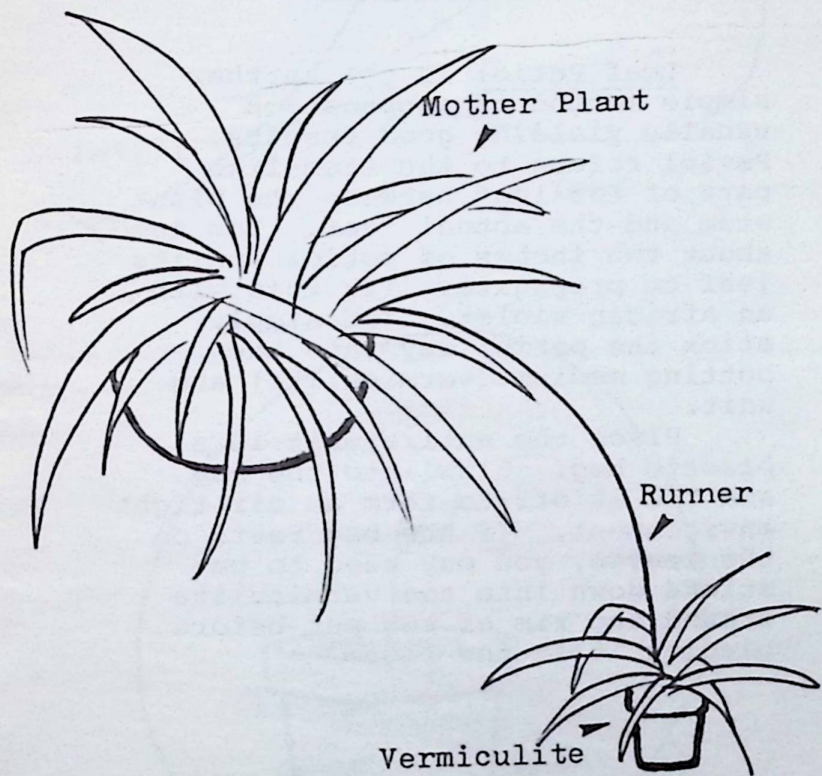


RUNNERS

The second method is called Runners. Like the first, it is simple. Runner propagation has two types. In both cases the mother plant sends out runners, like the Saifraga saementasa (Strawberry Begonia). A pot of moist vermiculite can be placed near the mother plant and the end of the runner can be placed in the vermiculite. This should be done when the runner develops a miniature copy of the mother plant at the end. The little bud, which all the tiny leaves are growing from, is all that need be placed into the potting medium. Always allow all the leaves to remain above the potting medium. The new plant may remain attached to the mother plant indefinitely.

The second runner type is identical in process except that the runner is cut from the mother plant before the propagation process is begun. This method will have to be treated as a cutting and all the necessary precautions will have to be taken. These will be discussed under Leaf-Bud Cutting.

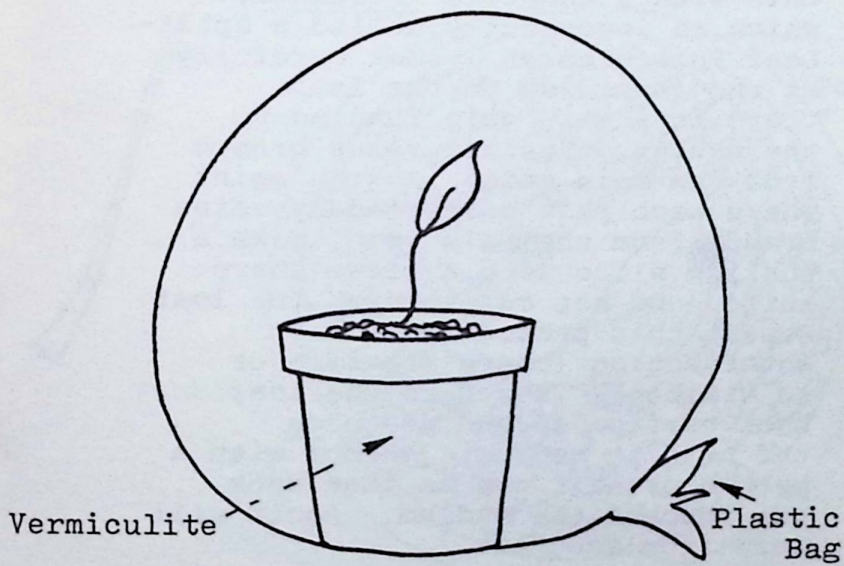
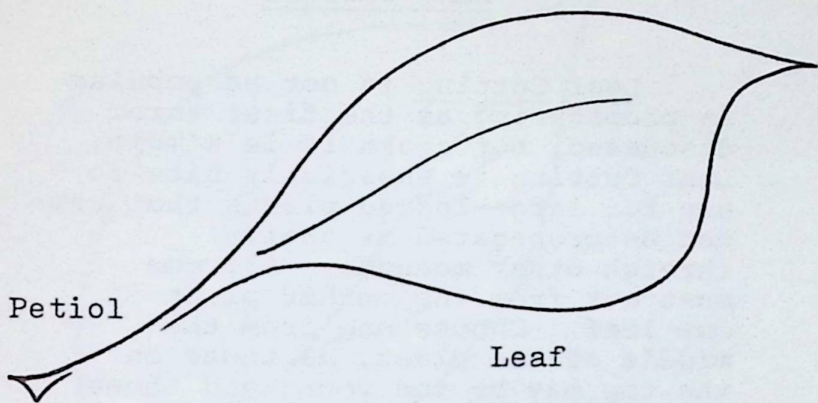
In either case, the runner will soon take root and in a few weeks may be moved to direct sunlight.



LEAF PETIOL

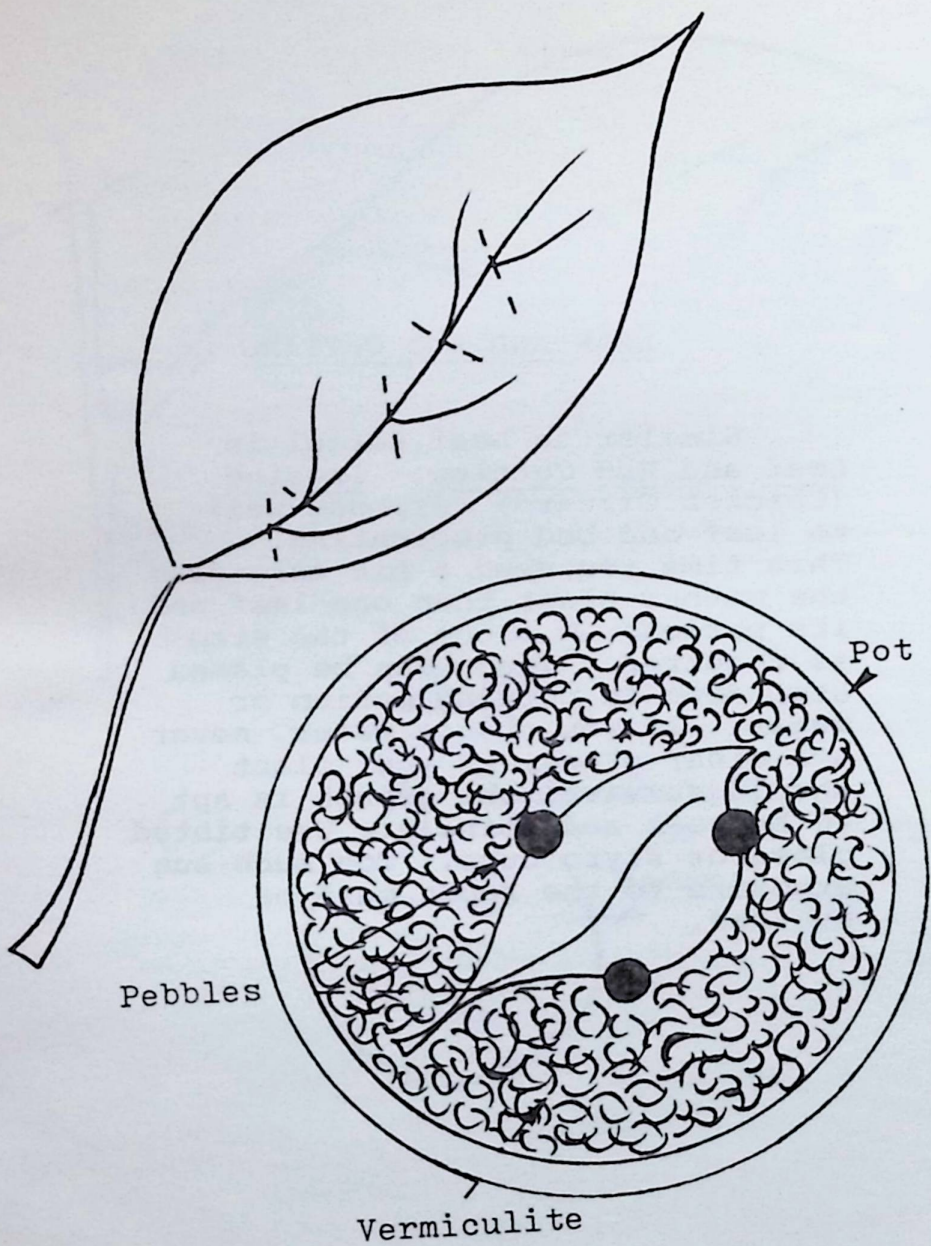
Leaf Petiol is yet another simple method of propagation usually yielding good results. Petiol refers to the stem-like part of the leaf between the plant stem and the actual leaf. You need about two inches of petiol and its leaf to propagate. Try this with an African Violet. You simply stick the petiol way into the potting medium (vermiculite) and wait.

Place the entire unit in a plastic bag. Blow into the bag and tie it off to form an air tight environment. If the bag rests on the leaves, you may need to put sticks down into the vermiculite around the rim of the pot before placing it in the bag.



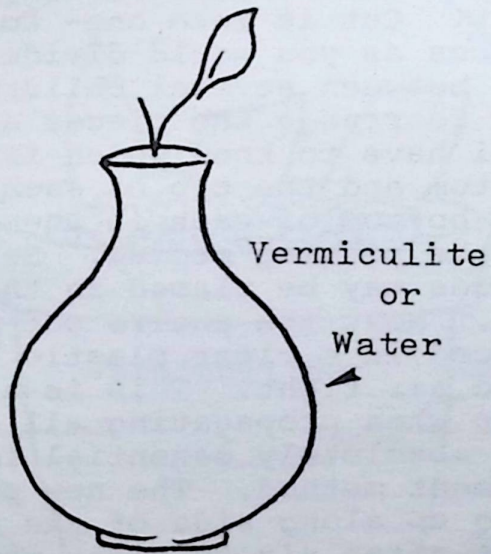
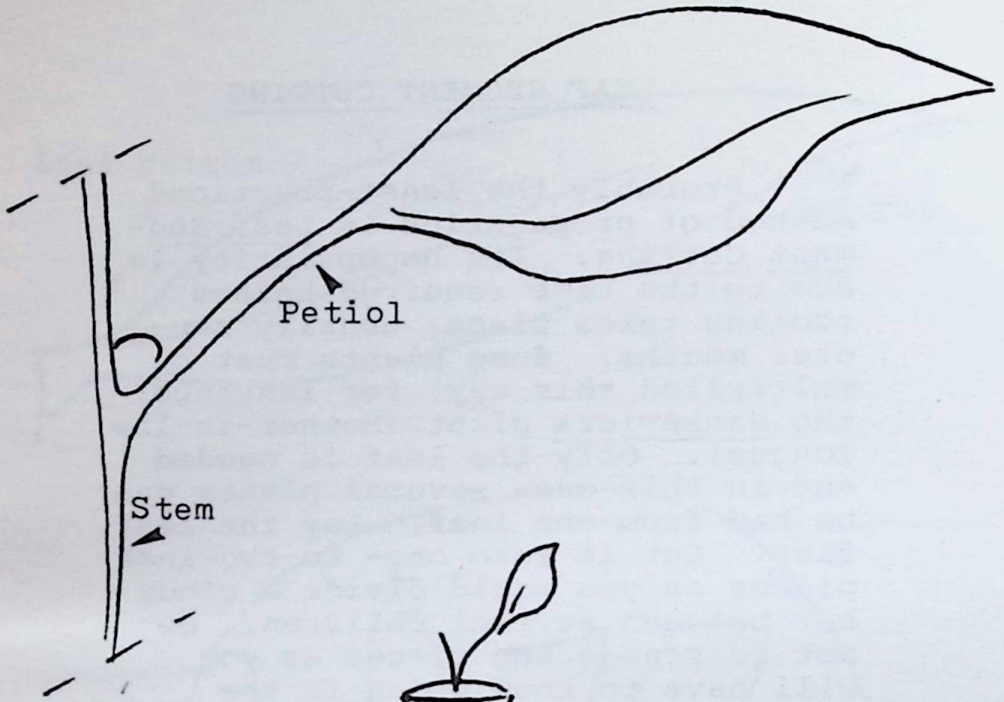
LEAF CUTTING

Leaf Cutting is not as popular in propagating as the first three discussed, but again it is simple. Leaf Cutting is especially nice to use for large-leaved plants that can not be propagated as easily through other methods. All you must cut from the mother plant is one leaf. Choose one from the middle of the plant, as those on the top may be too young and those at the bottom may be ready to drop (a natural growth process). Try this with a Monstera deliciosa, which is incorrectly called a Split-Leaf Philodendron. Look carefully at the underside of the leaf. There is a main vein running up the center. Smaller veins branch from the main vein. At the point where each pair of secondary veins branch from the main vein, make a shallow slice with a clean sharp knife. Do not cut through the leaf. Repeat this procedure at each intersection (there are five or so visible). Now turn the leaf back to face up and place on the potting medium. Anchor with a pebble or hair pin so that each cut touches the medium. Roots will form from each cut.



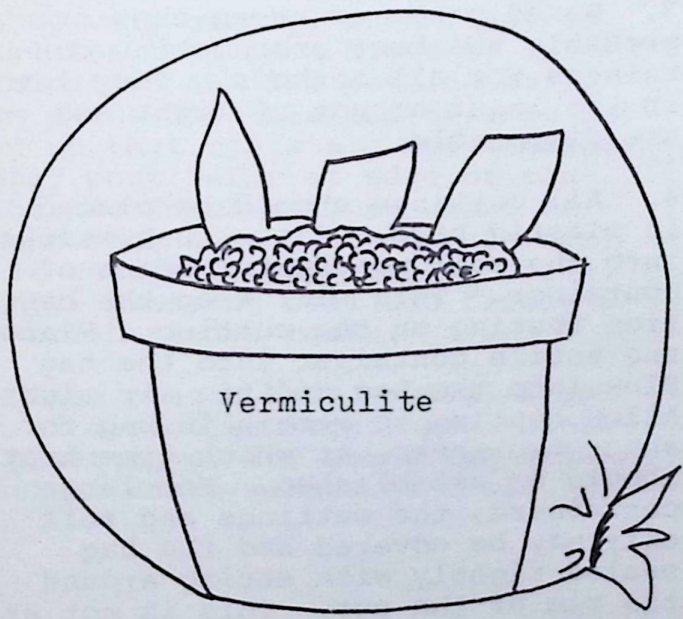
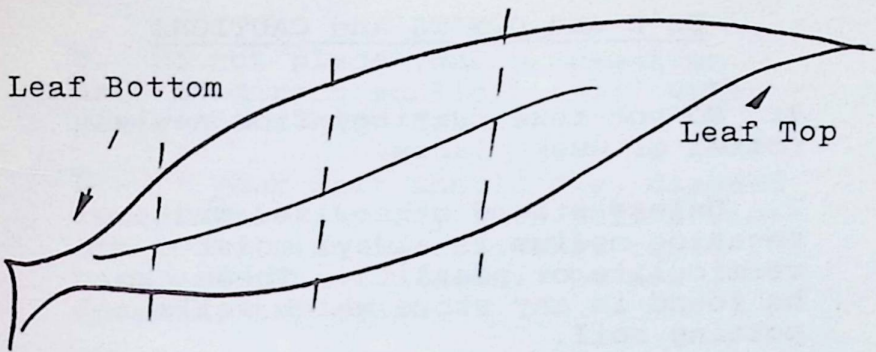
LEAF AND BUD CUTTING

Similar to Leaf Petiol is Leaf and Bud Cutting. Iresine (Chicken Gizzard) responds well to leaf and bud propagating. This time you need a bit more from the mother plant than one leaf and its petiol. A piece of the stem is required. These can be placed stem down in potting medium or water. If you choose water, never use clear glass; if your plant should survive, the growth is apt to be weak and spindly. Use tinted glass or styro cups. Too much sun exposure to the roots must be avoided.



LEAF SEGMENT CUTTING

Probably the least-practiced method of propagation is Leaf Segment Cutting. Its unpopularity is due to the time required before rooting takes place, usually several months. Some plants must be multiplied this way, for instance, the Sansevieria plant (Mother-in-law Tongue). Only the leaf is needed and in this case several plants can be had from one leaf. Lay the leaf flat. Cut it into one- to two-inch pieces as you would divide a candy bar between several children. Do not rearrange the pieces as you will have to know which is the bottom and the top of each cutting. The bottom of each is then placed in the potting medium. Several pieces may be placed in the same pot. Next the entire pot must be placed in a clear plastic bag and tied air tight. This is a suggested step when propagating all cuttings but absolutely essential for the segment method. The new plant will come up along side of the leaf segment after six to eight months. The bag must remain tightly tied for the full propagation period. Do not hesitate to try this one; the results will surely please you.



APPENDIX

Find the house plant you choose to propagate and interpret its letter code (below). Some plants will have more than one code; these plants may be propagated by all the methods listed after them.

V--Viviporous

R--Runners

LP--Leaf Petiol

LC--Leaf Cutting

LB--Leaf and Bud Cutting

LS--Leaf Segment

Spring--propagate in Spring

African Violet (LC) (LP)
Airplane or Spider Plant (R)
Aizoaceae (LC)
Agraves--Century Plant (R)
Aloe (R)
Alternathera (LB)
Amaryllis (Hardy) or rerine (R)
Angel Lily (R)
Arabian Coffee Plant (LB)
Arrowhead (LP)
Artiller pilea (V)

Baby Tears (R)
Begonia (LC)
Begonia, Iron Cross (LC) (LP)
Begonia, Lenore Oliver (LC) (LP)
Bell Cactus (R)
Bernest Fern (R)
Boston or Sword Fern (R) (Wait until
runners are mature)
Buddhist Pine (LB)

Cactus (LS)
Calla Lily (R)
Candleplant (LB)
Cape Primrose (LP)
Century plant--Agraves (R)
Chin Cactus (R)
Chlorophytum (R)
Christmas Cactus (LS)
Christmas kalanchoe (LC)
Comet orchid (R)
Coral berry (LB)
Crassulaceae (Spring) (LC) (LB)
Creeping Impatiens (LB)
Crossandra (LP)
Croton (LP)
Cyantis (LC)

Pothos (LP)
Prayer Plant (LP)
Prickly Pear (R)
Purple Heart (LB)
Purple Passion or Velvet Plant (LB)
(LC) (LP)

Rainbow Cactus or Hedge Hog (R)
Rattle Snake Plantium (LC)
Red Ivy (LB)
Rerine or Hardy Amaryllis (R)
Rex Begonia (LC)
Ribbon Plant (LB)
Rosary Vine (LB)

Satin Pellionia (LB)
Screw Pine (R)
Sea Urchin Cactus (R)
Sedums (LB)
Shingle Plant (LB)
Shrimp Plant (LB)
Silver Tree (LB)
Snake or mother-in-law Tongue (LS)
Spider or Airplane Plant (R)
Spiderwort or Inch Plant (LB)
Star Cactus (R)
Strawberry Begonia (R)
Strawberry Geranium (R)
String of Hearts (LB)
String of Pearls (LB)
Strobilanthes (Spring) (LB)
Sweetheart Ivy (LB)
Swiss Cheese Plant (LC)

Tahitian Bridal Veil (in soil) (LB)
Telandisa (R)
Teddy Bear Vine (LB)
Treefern (R)

Umbrella Tree (LP) (LC)

Vanda (R)

Variegated Peperomia (LB)

Velvet or Purple passion (LC) (LP) (LB)

Vinina peperomia (LB)

Vitis (LB)

Volcano Plant (R)

Wand Flower (R)

Watermelon Peperomia (LP)

Wax Ivy (LB)

Wax Plant (LC)

Wire plant (tips) (LB)

Yesterday and Tomorrow (Spring) (LB)

Zebra Haworthis (remove from mother
plant) (R)

Zebrina Pendula (LB)

GLOSSARY

Mother plant--original plant.

Runner--new growth resembling
mother plant.

Offset--new plant start.

Vermiculite or Pearlite--potting
soil additive used as a
propagating medium to pre-
vent packing soil, and to
provide drainage.

Petiol--stem of leaf, not plant
stem.

Unit--your new cutting placed in
propagating medium.

