



## GROWING VIOLETS FROM LEAF CUTTINGS

1. Your leaf will come in a plastic bag.
2. Now you are going to make a fresh cut on your leaf stem. Leave  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" of the stem shaft from the base of the leaf. Hold your sharp knife or razor blade on a slant so that your stem cut will be on an angle towards the front of the leaf. This will allow more surface area on the stem for babies to sprout.
3. Prepare a light soil mix. Use half - good, peat-based houseplant or violet soil and half - perlite.
4. Fill a small pot (1"-1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ") with light soil mix from step 3 (a mixture of perlite and vermiculite may also be used) and place your leaf's back against the side of the pot and into the soil up to the leaf base. Use a slightly larger pot if "putting down" several leaves around the edge of the same pot. Dampen soil.
5. Put the pot into a plastic baggie. This will provide a miniature greenhouse in which the roots will grow more quickly. Keep potting mixture damp. Having the leaf inside a baggie will help to retain moisture. If too much moisture collects in your baggie, simply open it for a couple of hours to allow some air to circulate, then close it back up. Failure to do this can cause the leaf to rot!
6. When roots have formed (leaf holds when tugged gently), trim off the top of the leaf. This encourages the leaf to use it's energy for making babies.
7. New plantlets will appear at the base of the leaf. It takes about one month, sometimes longer depending on growing conditions and age of mother leaf. **DO NOT THROW THE LEAF AWAY IF YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING HAPPENING.** If it appears to be healthy, it is "working on it." Be Patient!
8. When babies are at least 2" tall and have 4 good leaves, they are large enough to divide and plant into 2"-2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pots (solo cup size), again using a light soil mix.
9. After transplanting any violet, use plain water for the first 10 days or so. Use of fertilizers at this time might be excessive and cause burn.

**DO NOT USE WATER THAT HAS BEEN SOFTENED.** The salt will eventually cause burn to the roots.

10. Enjoy your new babies!!!!

