

Growing Violets from Leaf Cuttings

1. Your leaf may come in a plastic bag with damp cotton on the stem.
2. Make a fresh cut on an angle with a sharp knife or razor. This allows more surface area from which the babies can sprout. Leave stem about 3/4 inch to 1 inch long.
3. Place in a small pot with violet soil (a mixture of perlite and vermiculite may also be used). Use a larger pot if "putting down" several leaves around the edge of the same pot. Dampen soil.
4. Cover with a plastic baggie. This will provide a miniature greenhouse in which roots will grow more quickly. Keep potting mixture damp. This will be easier with the baggie, as it will help retain the moisture.
5. 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.
6. New plantlets will appear at the base of the leaf. It takes about one month, sometimes longer, depending on growing conditions and age of the leaf. Do not throw leaf away if you do not see anything happening; if it appears to be healthy, it is "working on it". Be patient.
7. When babies are large enough (at least 1 inch tall) and have at least 4 good leaves, divide and plant into 2 - 2 1/2 inch pots using regular violet soil mix. Variegated varieties should have some green in the leaves before dividing.
8. Cover with a plastic baggie or place in a clear sealed container to, once again, create a miniature greenhouse for better rooting.
9. After transplanting any violet, use plain water for the first 10 days or so, as using fertilizers at this time might be excessive and cause burn.
10. Enjoy your new babies!

