



# Leaf Propagation Problems You May Encounter

How to fix them and how to avoid them

---

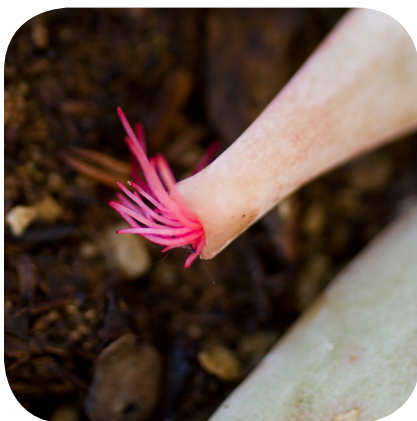
---

# What you'll learn

This guide will show you how to deal with 3 common problems with leaf propagation including:

- How to deal with leaves that only produce roots (no plant)
- What's causing rotting leaves
- Why nothing is growing from your leaves

## Roots but No Rosette



### What it looks like

After several weeks, even months, of growing, your leaf hasn't put off a new plant. Just lots of bright pink, healthy roots.

### Why it happens

There's not a perfect explanation, but some leaves just don't have the "desire" to put off a new plant.

### What to do

Often it's possible to try "shock" the leaf into putting off a rosette.

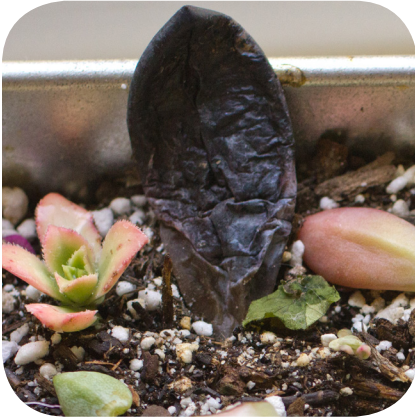
1. Tear off a piece of the roots, about half, at the base of the leaf.
2. Continue caring for the leaf as you have been.

### Results

Within 2-3 weeks a baby plant will start to grow. If you don't see a new rosette at this point, the leaf most likely will not ever put off a new plant and can be discarded.

---

# Rotting Leaves



## What it looks like

Rotting leaves look soggy and mushy. They may be yellowing and transparent or dark and gooey like the picture on the left.

## Why it happens

1. The end may not have dried out or calloused over enough before being placed on soil and watered.
2. The soil is too wet.
3. The leaf wasn't healthy when removed from the mother plant and would have died regardless.

## What to do

1. Make sure you don't water your leaves for at least 2-3 days after removing them from the mother plant.
2. Don't get the soil as wet and be sure to let it dry out completely before watering again.
3. Look at the mother plant to see if lower leaves are starting to turn translucent or yellow. This is a sign it needs to be watered less frequently.

## Future propagation attempts

Ensure the leaves you are removing from the mother plant are plump and firm. A healthier leaf is more likely to produce a healthy baby succulent.

If you find you constantly have rotting leaves, don't water them at all until roots begin to form.

---

# No new growth



## What it looks like

A shriveled up leaf without any signs of a new plant

## Why it happens

1. Propagation is not always successful. In fact, it is not uncommon to have a 50% success rate or less.
2. The type of succulent leaf you are propagating doesn't propagate from leaves.

## What to do

Try again!

Some succulents are easier to propagate from leaves and some won't propagate from leaves at all.

## Future propagation attempts

The leaves may need a little more water. Be sure to water whenever the soil is dried out.

Try a different variety that is easier to propagate from leaves until you're confident in your ability to grow new plants from leaves.

For example, *Sedum morganianum* is desperate to stay alive and nearly all healthy leaves used for propagation will produce new plants.

Many succulent varieties won't grow from leaves at all, such as Aloes, Gasterias and Haworthias.

---

# Experiment



After reviewing the sections above you should now be able to:

- Shock a “roots only” leaf into producing a new rosette
- Avoid rotting leaves in your propagation attempts
- Be ok with less than 100% success rate when propagating succulent leaves

With propagating succulents from leaves you go through a lot of trial and error. You’ll never know for sure what might happen unless you try.

Have fun with propagating! Be willing to try new things, experiment and see what happens.

You may discover a new favorite succulent to propagate. When I first started propagating I saved everything. I had a few *Kalanchoe marnieriana* leaves that I didn’t think could propagate from leaves. But, I left them out to propagate anyway.

It turns out, they grow new babies along the outer edge of their leaves! It’s now one of my favorites to propagate from leaves.

So have fun, be brave and grow some new plants!

## Learn More

Become a succulent propagation expert! Grab my ebook “[The Secrets to Propagating Succulents](#)” and be on your way to growing hundreds of new succulents, stress free!

**Click here to learn more about “The Secrets to Propagating Succulents”**