

Pomegranate Propagation Guide

Follow these simple steps to learn how to make your own propagations

Plant Propagation: The process of creating new plants from cuttings of a “Mother Plant”

Step 1

- Choose the plant you would like to clone.
- The clone that results from the propagation will have the same characteristics as the plant you take the cutting from, so be sure to pick your favorite or most productive plant.

Note: You should ideally try to propagate plants during dormant season.



Step 2

- Cut a branch off the tree that you would like to clone. You may choose to take your cuttings from saplings that shoot up from the base of your tree or from branches that are growing too close together.

Note: Be sure not to choose a branch that is thinner than a pencil and be sure to cut this branch at a 45-degree angle.

Step 3

- While this may seem counterintuitive, strip off any leaves, should there be any, and cut off any side branches from the main stem of the branch that you intend to propagate. This should give you a single stick with no lateral branches or leaves. Your cutting should be about a foot long.



Step 4

- Place your cutting about 4-6 inches (or about 1/3) the length into the soil and immediately water the cutting.

Note: Be sure to have a couple nodes submerged under the soil (nodes are the bumps on a stem where the side branches grow from).



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Step 5

- Based on the environmental conditions where you're at, adjust the frequency of watering to keep. Water enough so that your soil does not become dry for any prolonged period but be sure not to water so frequently that rot can set in on the branches that you have placed in the soil. Allow the cutting to grow for a few months to build up enough strength to be transplanted or simply propagate the plant in the place you intend for it to stay.

-Here at the Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture's Many Hands Learning Center and Urban Farm, we water our pomegranates once a day or twice a day on especially hot days while the propagations are still small and have not yet become established.



Overtime your cuttings will sprout new leaves and will grow a new root system. This may take a few weeks to a few months to become fully established and will vary from plant to plant, variety to variety, and is influenced by environmental conditions that the propagation is taking place.

Do not be discouraged if some of your cuttings do not take and never grow into successful clones, the process of propagating plants is as much an art as it is a science. It is quite likely that many of your cuttings will not take. Attempt multiple propagations at once to ensure that you are able to get at least one clone.

Maintenance:

- You can either do your propagations in a cooled greenhouse, which will ensure better environmental conditions for your cutting or you can protect your cuttings with shade or shade cloth. The main risk factor in propagation failure is the cuttings drying out before they can establish roots and new leaves.

Additional Notes:

- The propagation of your Pomegranate should be done while the plant is still dormant and during the cool season.
- Do the cutting and planting in the morning while temps are still cool to prevent the cutting from drying out.



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