

HOUSEPLANTS · INDOORS, BESIDE A BRIGHT WINDOW WITH ROOM TO SPREAD

Let's grow monstera.

Monstera deliciosa

This plan is for **Green Monstera deliciosa**

Is this your plant? Check the label for a green Monstera deliciosa. Monstera adansonii is a different species also sold as 'Swiss cheese plant'; this plan follows deliciosa.

Simple Monstera deliciosa care: settle it in, check the mix, and give the stem support.

Keep its nursery pot

1 nursery plant

Before you start

Start with a labeled green Monstera deliciosa in bright indirect light. Keep its working nursery pot while it settles in; check for crowded roots or poor drainage before repotting.

By [jennyzhuang](#)

Sources checked September 24, 2026 [View sources](#)



LIGHT

Bright indirect light

Use bright window light without harsh direct afternoon sun.



WATER

Let the top dry

Water once the top 1–2 inches of mix have dried.



FEEDING

Feed during active growth

A measured indoor-strength feed every 2 weeks when making new growth.



Monstera contains irritating calcium oxalate crystals. Keep it away from pets and children who may chew the leaves or stems.

BEFORE YOU START



Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 labeled *Monstera deliciosa* in a draining 6–8-inch pot
- ✓ A watering can, ½-teaspoon measure, and a support pole as the stem grows
- ✓ A stable saucer or outer pot that can be emptied

THE SOIL

Keep the nursery mix while it drains well. When repotting, use a free-draining houseplant mix containing bark or perlite.

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN



One pot. Here's the plan.

Indoors, beside a bright window with room to spread. Start with **nursery plant**.



THE POT

Keep its nursery pot

Our starter plan uses a small plant in a draining 6–8-inch nursery pot. Keep it while drainage and root space are adequate; a new purchase does not automatically need repotting.



HOW MANY

1 nursery plant

Start with a labeled green *Monstera deliciosa*, not a loose leaf.

THE CONTAINER

Keep its nursery pot



No immediate repot

START WITH

1 nursery plant



Illustration · not to scale

Keep its nursery pot · 1 nursery plant Our starter plan uses a small plant in a draining 6–8-inch nursery pot. Keep it while drainage and root space are adequate; a new purchase does not automatically need repotting. Start with a labeled green *Monstera deliciosa*, not a loose leaf. Original illustration; not to scale.

One routine, three stages.

Just brought it home

Keep the nursery pot if drainage and roots are healthy. Find a bright spot, empty the outer pot, and check for existing fertilizer.

Settled and growing

Check the upper mix, support the climbing stem, and use the indoor fertilizer recipe only while new growth is active.

Outgrowing its pot

Check root crowding if roots escape the base, the mix dries in a day, or it tips easily. When needed, move about 2 inches wider.

Pot size follows the root ball, not the date you bought it. See Minnesota Extension's repotting signs.

01 Let your new plant settle

Keep a healthy plant in its draining nursery pot. Empty any hidden water in the decorative outer pot. Before adding plant food, check whether the nursery mix already contains fertilizer.

02 Leave room beside a window

Place it where it gets bright indirect light. A young plant looks small, but mature leaves can spread well beyond the pot.

03 Feel the top of the mix

Check once a week. If the top 1–2 inches are dry, water until the root ball is wet and excess drains. If damp, check again later.

04 Support the main stem

As it grows, secure the main climbing stem loosely to a sturdy pole. Leave leaf stalks free to move; do not tie them tightly to the support.

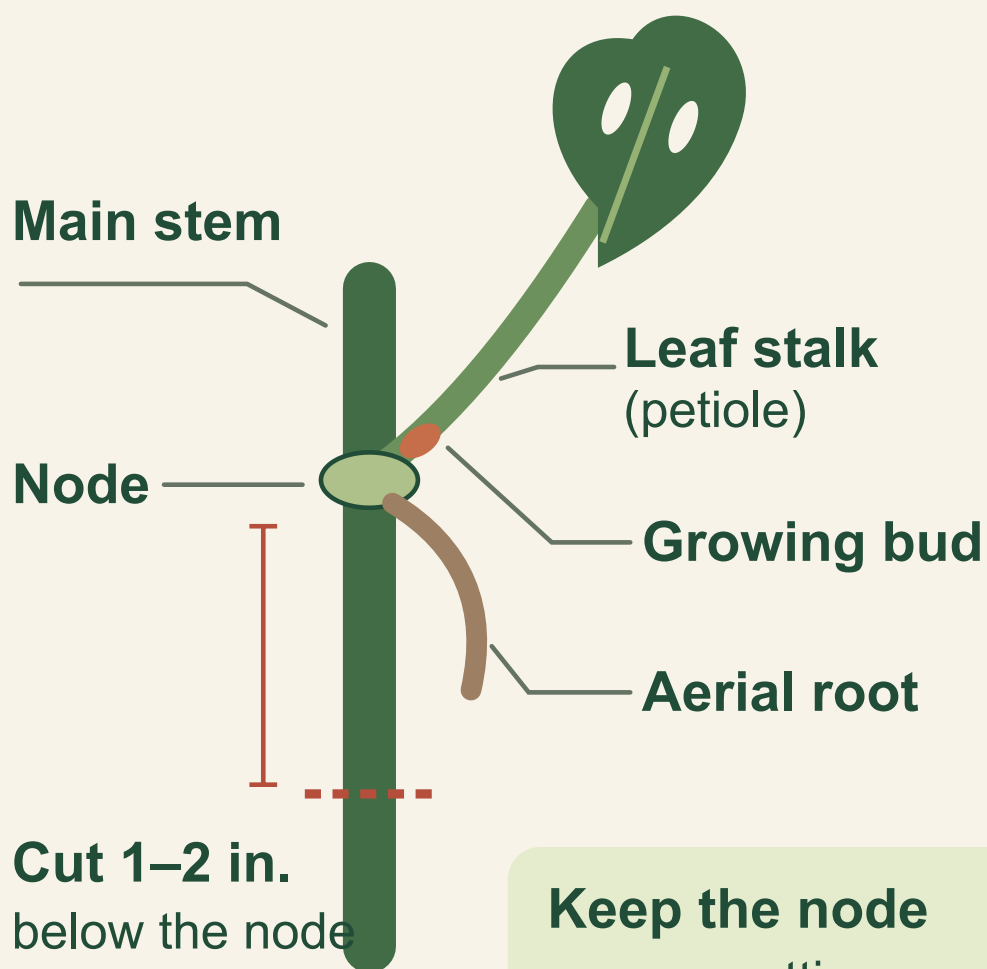
When it is time to repot: [check drainage](#) and [choose a container mix](#). Follow this plant's mix instructions.

Other ways to start

Root a stem with a node

Use the node diagram below before cutting. Keep the node and its growing bud on the stem piece. Root the node in clean water with leaves above the waterline; replace cloudy water. Keep it warm in bright indirect light. Move to moist potting mix after healthy roots and active growth develop. A stable pot at least 4 inches wide and 5 inches deep is a starting option for a small cutting, not a large mature stem.

Find the node before you cut.



Keep the node on your cutting.

Schematic · not to scale

Find the node on the **main stem**, where a leaf stalk attaches, and keep its growing bud. Cut the stem **1–2 inches below that node**. A leaf and its stalk alone cannot produce a new vine. Use clean cutting tools; this sketch is not to scale. Node and cutting guidance: Minnesota Extension.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE



Water & fertilizer at a glance.



WATER WHEN

Check weekly. Water only when the top 1–2 inches are dry; wet the roots, drain, and empty the outer pot.



FERTILIZER

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)



AMOUNT

½ teaspoon in 1 US gallon of water



WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on.



HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Every 2 weeks during active spring and summer growth.



WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Wait until existing feed ends. Feed at a needed watering; skip struggling roots, immediately after repotting, or when winter light stops growth.

Use the indoor rate above. The stronger outdoor rate is not this plan.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

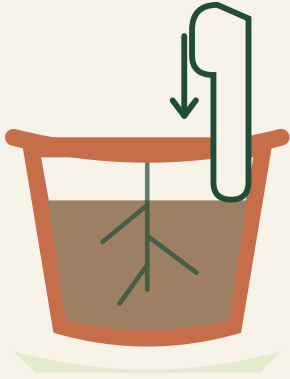


When to water.

Check weekly and use your finger to test the top 1–2 inches. Water only when that layer is dry; a cool or dim room can lengthen the wait. Water slowly around the root zone, allow drainage, and empty the outer pot. Persistently soggy soil is a reason to investigate drainage and roots, even if a leaf is yellow or drooping.

CHECK

Top 1–2 in.
dry



WATER

Wet the
root zone



LET IT DRAIN

Let excess
water drain



Water slowly until it drains; empty the saucer

Illustration · not to scale

Check before watering. Check weekly. Water only when the top 1–2 inches are dry; wet the roots, drain, and empty the outer pot. Original illustration; not to scale.

The easy rule

Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

02 / PLANT FOOD



Exactly what to feed it.

Wait until any nursery or potting-mix fertilizer has finished. Feed an established plant that is actively making leaves. Skip extra food while roots are struggling, immediately after repotting, or when winter light has stopped growth.

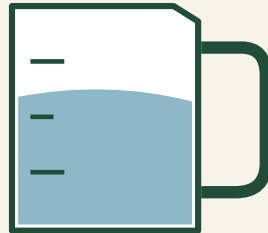
MEASURE

1/2 tsp



DISSOLVE

1 US gal water



USE WHAT IS NEEDED

**Wet the roots;
let excess drain**



Mixing batch ≠ a whole-pot serving

Illustration · not to scale

1/2 teaspoon in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on. Every 2 weeks during active spring and summer growth. Wait until existing feed ends. Feed at a needed watering; skip struggling roots, immediately after repotting, or when winter light stops growth. Original illustration; not to scale.

US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Miracle-Gro

Water Soluble All Purpose

24-8-16

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.



½ TEASPOON PER US GALLON · EVERY 2 WEEKS

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

Mix ½ teaspoon of Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food, US 24-8-16, into 1 US gallon of water. This describes the concentration in your watering can, not a gallon to pour into one pot. Apply only enough at the roots to wet the mix and drain. Use at a needed watering every 2 weeks during active spring and summer growth. Use the indoor rate and stop if growth or root health declines.

[Check the manufacturer's product page ↗](#)

Choose the dry, water-soluble US 24-8-16 product. Ready-to-use liquids and other Miracle-Gro formulas have different directions.

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

New leaves, splits, and holes

New leaves may start solid and heart-shaped. Splits and holes usually become more pronounced as the plant matures with suitable light. A small cutting may take 2–3 months to make new leaves.

Starting indoors and avoiding cold

This is an indoor plan you can begin year-round. Warmth and good spring or summer light make establishment easier. Keep it away from frost, cold drafts, and intense sun through hot glass.

For regional planting windows, [find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗](#).

Something looking off?

Why do the young leaves have no holes?

Young *Monstera deliciosa* leaves commonly start without holes. Give the plant time, useful window light, and support. Adding extra fertilizer will not instantly produce a mature leaf.

Should I water a drooping or yellowing plant?

Check the mix first. If it is still wet, adding more water can worsen a root problem. Empty the outer pot and check drainage. If the upper mix is dry, water thoroughly and let it drain. A yellow leaf alone cannot tell you which problem you have.

Is this the same as *Monstera adansonii*?

No. This plan is for *Monstera deliciosa*, whose mature leaves develop large splits and holes. *Adansonii* has a different leaf shape and growth habit; check the plant label when buying.



Repotting and supporting the stem

Repot when roots need more room

Check the roots if they fill the pot, emerge from its base, the mix dries within 24 hours, or the plant tips easily. Those are reasons to assess root space, not a rule to repot every new purchase. When crowded roots need room, choose a draining pot about 2 inches wider and 1–2 inches taller. An 8-inch pot would move to about 10 inches wide. Keep the stem at its previous depth.

Support the stem and care for aerial roots

Keep the main stem supported as it gets heavier. Wipe dust from leaves with a damp cloth. Leave healthy aerial roots alone or guide them toward the support rather than forcing them into tight bends.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- [University of Minnesota: nodes, watering checks, and repotting ↗](https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/propagating-monstera-deliciosa)
<https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/propagating-monstera-deliciosa>
- [NC State: identity, support, and ingestion caution ↗](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/monstera-deliciosa/)
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/monstera-deliciosa/>
- [Wisconsin Extension: light, climbing support, and mature leaves ↗](https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/monstera-deliciosa/)
<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/monstera-deliciosa/>
- [Illinois Extension: feeding houseplants during growth ↗](https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/care)
<https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/care>
- [Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗](https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food.html)
<https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food.html>

Something needs updating? [Suggest a correction](#)

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.