

HOUSEPLANTS · INDOORS, NEAR A BRIGHT WINDOW

Let's grow pothos.

Epipremnum aureum

This plan is for **Epipremnum aureum**

A little green for your bookshelf.

Keep its nursery pot

1 small plant

Before you start

Start indoors any time of year in bright, indirect window light; keep the plant away from cold drafts and harsh direct sun.

By [jennyzhuang](#)

Sources checked September 22, 2026 [View sources](#)



LIGHT

Indirect light

Bright window light is ideal; keep it out of harsh direct sun.



WATER

Dry between drinks

Check the pot before watering, not the calendar.



FEEDING

Light feeding

A small feed during active growth is plenty.



Keep leaves away from pets and young children who may chew them.

BEFORE YOU START



Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 healthy pothos in a 4–6-inch nursery pot with drainage
- ✓ A watering can; no immediate repotting kit needed
- ✓ A saucer or a decorative outer pot

THE SOIL

Its existing nursery mix; fresh houseplant potting mix only when repotting is needed

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, near a bright window. Start with **small plant**.



THE POT

Keep its nursery pot

Start with a 4–6-inch nursery plant. Use a saucer or cachepot.



HOW MANY

1 small plant

Choose a healthy rooted plant for the quickest start.

THE CONTAINER

Keep its nursery pot



No immediate repot

START WITH

1 small plant



Illustration · not to scale

Keep its nursery pot · 1 small plant Start with a 4–6-inch nursery plant. Use a saucer or cachepot. Choose a healthy rooted plant for the quickest start. Original illustration; not to scale.

01 Keep the inner pot

Set the nursery pot inside a decorative one, or on a saucer. Its drainage holes still need to work.

02 Place near a window

Choose bright indirect light. A dark shelf will slow growth.

03 Check before watering

Feel the mix and lift the pot. Wait while the mix is damp and the pot feels heavy.

04 Let it drain

When the mix has dried between waterings, water at the sink, let it drain, then return it to its spot.

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

ONE PLANT, A NEW START

Make a new pothos from a cutting.

See where to cut, what goes below the water, and when the roots are ready for a pot.

[Follow the pothos propagation guide](#) →

Other ways to start

Root a stem cutting

Cut a healthy stem just below a node and remove the lowest leaf. Place the node in water with leaves above the waterline. Refresh the water and pot into moist houseplant mix once it has several roots.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE



Water & fertilizer at a glance.



WATER WHEN

Check weekly, but water only after the mix dries between waterings. Drain fully 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

Once every 2 months while growing.



WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Wait until nursery feed ends. Skip dormant or poorly lit periods.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

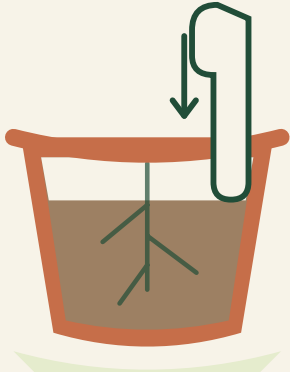


When to water.

Check once a week as a reminder, then water only after the mix has dried between waterings. A pot in a dim room may stay wet much longer. Empty any water left in the outer pot.

CHECK

Mix dry between waterings



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, but water only after the mix dries between waterings. Drain fully 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.

Do not add fertilizer automatically to a new nursery plant that already has a feeding program. When that existing feed is no longer supplying nutrients, feed only during active 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. Once every 2 months while growing. Wait until nursery feed ends. Skip dormant or poorly lit periods. 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.



A SPECIFIC US PRODUCT

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

Use ½ teaspoon of the US 24-8-16 product in 1 gallon of water, its indoor concentration. Apply at the roots once every 2 months while growing, following NC State's pothos interval. Use only enough for your pot. Skip dormant or poorly lit periods.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Use the named US formulation. A different product or concentration needs different directions. The amount mixed is a batch, not a dose to pour into one pot.

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

New leaves and longer vines

Look for new leaves and extending vines as the plant settles in. Low light slows growth; fertilizer cannot replace light.

Growing indoors through winter

An indoor plant year-round. Keep away from cold drafts and do not put it outside during cold weather.

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

PHOTO NOTES



A trailing vine and a pair of scissors.

Scissors beside a trailing vine. The cutting point is unclear in this photo; follow our propagation guide's node diagram when taking a cutting.



Scissors beside a trailing vine.

Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.



Something looking off?

Is pothos safe around pets?

It can irritate the mouth if chewed. Keep it away from pets and young children who may eat leaves.

Why are the leaves yellow?

Check moisture and drainage first. Persistently wet mix can damage roots; one yellow leaf does not tell you the exact cause.

Can one loose leaf become a plant?

For this method you need a piece of stem with a node. A leaf without a node will not make a new vine.

Repotting and shaping vines

When to repot

Wait until roots are crowded or the pot's condition calls for it. Move up only one pot size; a large amount of wet unused mix is hard to manage.

Trim vines for a fuller plant

Trim a long vine just above a node to shape it. Root suitable cuttings to make additional plants; wipe dusty leaves with a soft damp cloth.

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.

- [NC State: pothos watering, feeding, propagation, and toxicity ↗](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/epipremnum-aureum/)
- [Illinois Extension: houseplant 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)

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.