

HOUSEPLANTS · INDOORS, NEAR A BRIGHT WINDOW

Let's grow spider plant.

Chlorophytum comosum

This plan is for **Chlorophytum comosum**

Is this your plant? Choose one rooted spider plant in a draining 4-inch nursery pot. Green and striped forms share this starting plan; a loose cut leaf is not a rooted starter.

A fountain of leaves, with little plants to share.

Keep its nursery pot

1 rooted plant

Before you start

Start indoors year-round near a bright window with filtered light. Keep the nursery pot initially; check the top inch every 3–4 days and water only when it is dry.

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Sources checked September 25, 2026 [View sources](#)



LIGHT

Bright indirect light

Choose a bright window with filtered light. Keep the leaves out of strong direct sun.



WATER

Let the top inch dry

The surface can dry a little. The pot should not stay soggy.



FEEDING

Only a little

An established plant usually needs feeding every 3–4 months.



ASPCA lists spider plant as non-toxic to cats and dogs. Still keep it from being chewed: a non-toxic plant is not a pet snack or toy.

BEFORE YOU START



Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 rooted spider plant in one draining 4-inch nursery pot
- ✓ 1 saucer or an outer pot you can empty
- ✓ A watering can; no immediate repotting supplies needed

THE SOIL

Keep the healthy nursery mix at first. When repotting is needed, use a fresh, freely draining houseplant potting mix. Check its bag for any added fertilizer.

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

Buy one rooted plant in a 4-inch-wide nursery pot with drainage holes. Keep that pot at first and add a saucer; this is our small starter size, not a minimum for every spider plant.

HOW MANY

1 rooted plant

Choose a labeled *Chlorophytum comosum* with healthy leaves. If you already own one in a suitable draining pot, keep it there rather than downsizing to match this recipe.

THE CONTAINER

Keep its nursery pot



No immediate repot

START WITH

1 rooted plant



Illustration · not to scale

Keep its nursery pot · 1 rooted plant Buy one rooted plant in a 4-inch-wide nursery pot with drainage holes. Keep that pot at first and add a saucer; this is our small starter size, not a minimum for every spider plant. Choose a labeled *Chlorophytum comosum* with healthy leaves. If you already own one in a suitable draining pot, keep it there rather than downsizing to match this recipe. Original illustration; not to scale.

01 Keep the draining nursery pot

Start with one rooted plant in its 4-inch pot. Put it on a saucer or inside an outer pot, with drainage holes clear. Empty collected water after watering.

02 Find bright, indirect light

Give the arching leaves room beside a bright window. Filter strong sun with a sheer curtain or move the pot out of the direct beam.

03 Feel the top inch

Check every 3–4 days at first. When the top inch feels dry, water thoroughly and let the excess drain; damp mix means wait.

04

Let the plant settle

Watch for fresh leaves. If a long stem later carries plantlets, use one of those little rosettes for propagation; there is no need to repot just to encourage babies.

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

Other ways to start

Root one plantlet

Choose one baby rosette with developing roots. Rest its base on moist potting mix in a small draining pot, keeping the leaves above the mix. Leave the connecting stem attached to the parent until the plantlet roots, then cut it. Alternatively, pot a detached plantlet that already has root beginnings. Keep its rooting mix lightly moist; a cut leaf alone is not the plantlet used by this method.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE



Water & fertilizer at a glance.



WATER WHEN

Check every 3–4 days at first. Water only when the top inch is dry; drain and empty the outer pot.



FERTILIZER

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



AMOUNT

½ level 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 gallon is a mixing batch, not one pot's serving.



HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Once every 3–4 months while actively growing, at a needed watering.



WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Let a new plant settle; wait for nursery feed to end and new growth to appear. Pause when growth stops. Extra food is not a cure for brown tips.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

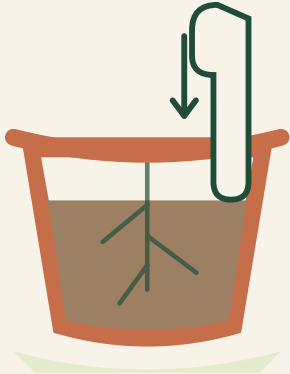


When to water.

Set a reminder to check every 3–4 days at first. Feel 1 inch down in the mix: water when that layer is dry, and wait if it is still damp. Pour slowly over the mix until excess drains, then empty the saucer or outer pot. The reminder is our starting routine; warmth, light, pot size, and season decide the actual watering interval.

CHECK

Top 1 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 every 3–4 days at first. Water only when the top inch is dry; 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.

Let a newly bought plant settle before feeding. Check its tag or ask the nursery how long the existing fertilizer lasts. Add no extra food while that feed is active, and wait for new growth before starting. Brown tips alone do not show a fertilizer shortage.

MEASURE

½ level 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

½ level teaspoon in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not one pot's serving. Once every 3–4 months while actively growing, at a needed watering. Let a new plant settle; wait for nursery feed to end and new growth to appear. Pause when growth stops. Extra food is not a cure for brown tips. 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.



FOR AN ESTABLISHED, ACTIVELY GROWING PLANT

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

Mix ½ level teaspoon of Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16) into 1 US gallon of water. At a needed watering, use only enough solution to wet this pot and drain. Feed once every 3–4 months while growing, after nursery feed ends; pause when growth stops. The manufacturer supplies the indoor dilution, while Wisconsin Extension supports this less frequent spider-plant schedule. The gallon is a mixing batch, not a serving for one small pot.

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 the first plantlets

Look for new leaves from the center. Later, long stems may carry small flowers and baby plants called plantlets. Their arrival varies with the plant and its conditions; this guide does not promise a date for the first baby.

Starting indoors and avoiding cold

Start indoors any time of year near a bright window with filtered light. Avoid cold drafts and sudden moves into strong outdoor sun. Check the mix more often if a warmer, brighter location makes it dry faster.

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

REFERENCE PHOTOS

What crowded roots look like

This spider plant root ball shows dense root crowding around its sides and base.



Thick pale roots densely circle the sides and base of a spider plant root ball.

Root-bound *Chlorophytum comosum* by Keith Williamson. CC BY 2.0. Commons source crop by Akira Kouchiyama. Resized and re-encoded; full frame preserved.

Something looking off?

Why are the leaf tips brown?

Check both the mix and your recent feeding. Too much drying, persistently wet roots, fertilizer salts, and water quality can all contribute. Do not add fertilizer or water a damp pot just to fix the tips. If the routine is sound but tip browning continues, try distilled water and watch the new growth.

Why is my plant not making babies?

Plantlets are not on a fixed timetable. Light, cultivar, feeding, and day length affect them. Wisconsin Extension notes that slightly crowded roots can help; excessive fertilizer can reduce plantlets. Keep a healthy plant in its suitable pot, but do not force it into a smaller one or let crowded roots make watering unmanageable.

Is this a pet-friendly houseplant?

ASPCA lists *Chlorophytum comosum* as non-toxic to cats and dogs. That does not make it suitable for chewing: ASPCA also warns that eating any plant material can cause vomiting or digestive upset. Keep dangling leaves out of reach, and contact your veterinarian if your pet seems unwell after eating them.



Repotting and choosing a plantlet

When to move up a pot size

Repot when roots fill the pot or the mix becomes difficult to keep evenly watered. Choose a pot only 1–2 inches wider with drainage holes, and keep the plant at its previous depth. Keeping the nursery pot initially is a convenience for a healthy starter, not a rule to ignore severely crowded roots.

Choose a plantlet with root beginnings

The baby is a small rosette on the long flowering stem, with its own root beginnings. It can stay attached while rooting in a second pot. Wait for roots before cutting the connection; simply trimming an arching leaf does not give you this starting material.



Help with your next step.

Keep a nursery pot draining

Use the outer pot as a cover and empty collected water after each watering.

Check the fertilizer already in the mix

Ask the nursery about existing feed before starting the spider-plant feeding schedule.

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.

- [Wisconsin Extension: modest feeding, plantlets, and brown tips ↗](https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/spider-plant-chlorophytum-comosum/)
<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/spider-plant-chlorophytum-comosum/>
- [Maryland Extension: top-inch watering, drainage, and waiting for new growth ↗](https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=862919)
<https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=862919>
- [Illinois Extension: spider-plant light and ordinary potting mix ↗](https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/spider-plant)
<https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/spider-plant>
- [Illinois Extension: choosing a pot and settling in a new houseplant ↗](https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/get-started)
<https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/get-started>
- [Illinois Extension: repotting at the previous depth ↗](https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2018-03-19-tips-repotting-houseplants)
<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2018-03-19-tips-repotting-houseplants>
- [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>
- [ASPCA: spider plant is non-toxic to cats and dogs ↗](https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/asPCA-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/spider-plant)
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/asPCA-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/spider-plant>
- [ASPCA: why non-toxic plants are still not pet food ↗](https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/asPCA-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants)
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/asPCA-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

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.