

**Topic:** Propagating plants from “offsets” -- Spider plants (*Chlorophytum* Spp)

### **Background**

- Spider plant is evergreen, perennial, flowering plant in asparagus family
- Typically, grown as house plants
- Native to tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia, and Australia
- For some plants, dropping seeds may not be a successful way for it to reproduce itself, so one strategy is to send out “offsets,” which take nutrients from the parent plant until roots are long enough for the offset to grow on its own.
- Require bright light, but not direct sunlight
- Require little water – water once every week or so.
- Keep the soil of newly planted offsets moist for a few weeks.

### **Materials**

Mother spider plant (from Polly)

Small pots (white)

Potting soil

Potting caddies

Scissors

Paper towels

Gloves (for those who want them)

Tape for labels

Watering cans

Trays for potted up plants

### **Steps**

- People work in teams
- Each team has a potting caddy with soil in it, full watering can, scissors, soil, tape, marker, small pots
- Instructor explains activity
- Pass around the mother plant, people feel for the offsets, how they’re connected to mother plant, their developing roots
- People moisten soil in their caddies until it’s the dampness of a wrung out sponge
- Fill 2 pots with some soil, set aside
- With scissors, people cut offsets from the mother plant
- Place offsets in pot, add soil, and “play piano” to position it well into the soil, water well
- Set pots in tray and position it on counter away from direct sunlight
- Ask for volunteers who’ll water the newly planted offsets Mon, Wed, Fri.
- Once rooted, plants may be taken home by participants (in a few weeks)