

Spider Plant Babies Planting/Growing Instructions (*Chlorophytum comosum*)

I suggest planting 4-5 babies per 10" planter/basket for fastest results. Spider plants produce more babies when they are root-bound, so keep that in mind when planting. Of course, you may place each baby in it's own 4" pot; it's completely up to you. You can also plant these directly in the ground as a border or ground cover in a shady area, but, since they need to be root bound to put off new babies, you won't get many off-shoots from those in the ground.

Place the babies in well draining potting soil, burying the air-root system completely in the soil. Water well, wetting the leaves, as well. Because of their tuberous roots, spider plants can take, and actually do best in, rather dry conditions; I water mine weekly. If you see their leaves beginning to droop or curl you've let them get too dry. If leaves begin falling off from the base of the plant, it is likely you have them too wet and they are rotting. Fertilize with a 'Miracle Grow' type fertilizer according to package directions. Place in a bright area of your home or yard, but out of direct sunlight.

These make excellent house plants in hanging baskets or raised on a pedestal or plant ledge so the babies and delicate white blooms can cascade down. They are also excellent outside in a shady spot in a hanging basket or grown as ground cover directly on the ground. They are hardy to 30° F. I have some growing outside in the ground in zone 9a and, although they may freeze back, they always seem to come back each year.

In recent years this plant has been recognized as having particular beneficial properties in cleansing and ridding the air of pollutants. This makes them WONDERFUL in an office environment to cleanse the air of the pollutants emitted from photocopiers, cell phones and computer monitors.