Spider Plants
Chlorophytum comosum

Spider plants, Chlorophytum comosum, need bright natural light but will sunburn if grown in direct sunlight. They also do very well when grown under grow lights, but will be reluctant to produce the plantlets unless you decrease their light hours to simulate the naturally shorter days of fall, when they normally produce their 'babies'. Keep the soil evenly moist, but never soggy. They also prefer to be in a cooler (55-65 degrees F.) room but will tolerate warmer temperatures. Feed the plant every 3 or 4 months with any house plant fertilizer.

Spider plants are generally easy to grow, and mature plants are quite beautiful until the tips brown out. Tip burn is usually caused by chemicals in the water. If you are using city water for your plants it has been chlorinated, and very likely has been treated with fluoride, either of which will cause the burn. Using rainwater or distilled water will take care of this problem. Over fertilizing will also damage the plant, so when you feed it, use 1/2 of the recommended strength.

Propagating Spider Plants

Spider plants are very easy to propagate. The ideal method is to allow the plantlet to root while it is still attached to the mother plant. Set a pot filled with sterile potting soil within reach of one of the plantlets and just stand the offset onto the surface of the soil. If necessary you can pin it in place with a bent paper clip. When the young plant has rooted in 7-10 days just sever its ties with the mother. If it is impossible to use this method, look at the base of the plantlets and choose one with a very fleshy set of roots rather than choosing one with good foliage. Sever it from the parent and follow the same procedure. This method will take about a month. The foliage can then be trimmed with a pair of clean sharp scissors if needed.

Hormex Rooting Powder

Hormex is a brand of rooting powder hormone that stimulates root growth. Hormex also prevents transplant shock by stimulating growth of the small feeder roots that are normally damaged during transplanting. It is rich in vitamin B1. Dip basal ends of cuttings into powder and shake off by tapping cuttings. Hormex is a type of plant growth hormone called Auxin. Auxin is the term actually used to describe any chemical substance that promotes elongation, division, and differentiation of cells.