So Easy You May Forget About It!

A little wild. A little forgiving. All pothos.

For the first leaf, the long trailing vine, and every small growing victory in between.

Sean Kim's Pothos!
A beginner's field guide · 12 min read

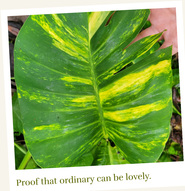
Let's get growing →



A little light, but a looooooooooot of room to grow.

Make yourself at home

Meet pothos ↘ · Light & care ↘ · Watering ↘ · Propagation ↘ · Plant SOS ↘



Proof that ordinary can be lovely.

01 / A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN

It starts with one leaf.

An imagined first-plant story. Maybe a familiar one.

Picture a cutting in a jam jar on the kitchen sill. You check it with your morning tea. For days, nothing. Then one fine white root appears—and suddenly, you're a plant person.

That's the quiet charm of pothos. Epipremnum aureum is a tropical climbing vine that settles beautifully into indoor life. It doesn't need perfection. A little attention goes a long way.

"You don't need a green thumb.
Just a curious one."

02 / THE EVERYDAY THINGS

A happy spot. A simple rhythm.

Think warm room, soft light, and a little space to wander.

Give it gentle light

Bright, indirect light is its sweet spot. Lower light is tolerated, but growth slows and variegation may fade. Avoid harsh direct sun.

Keep it comfortably warm

Aim for 65–85°F (18–29°C). Keep leaves away from cold glass, chilly drafts, and blasting heaters.

Let it find its shape

Trail it from a shelf or offer a moss pole to climb. Turn the pot now and then, and wipe dusty leaves with a damp cloth.



Near a bright window, not in the midday spotlight.

03 / BEFORE YOU REACH FOR THE JUG

Water the soil. Not the calendar.

The best reminder is a finger in the pot.

Check the top 1–2 inches of soil. If they feel dry, water thoroughly until excess runs out of the drainage holes. Empty the saucer or outer pot afterwards.

Still damp? Leave it be and check again in a few days. Light, warmth, pot size, and the season all change how quickly a plant gets thirsty.

Less guessing. More noticing.

A quick soil check

Feel 1–2 inches below the surface.
What does the soil feel like today?

Dry to the touch

Check my pothos →

YOUR NEXT LITTLE STEP

Time for a good drink.

Water slowly and evenly. Let it drain completely—roots need air as well as water.

Damp soil? Pause the pour and check again later.



ON THE POTTING TABLE / A little room, not too much.

04 / WHAT'S UNDER THE LEAVES

Happy roots, happy vines.

A pot that drains makes all the difference.

Use a loose, well-draining indoor potting mix; extra perlite or fine orchid bark can help it stay airy. Always choose a pot with drainage holes.

When roots circle tightly or crowd the holes, move up just one pot size in spring or summer. Feed lightly with a balanced houseplant fertilizer at the label's dilution during active growth.

A slower winter plant needs less water, not more encouragement.

04 / A SMALL WEEKEND PROJECT

One vine. More little beginnings.

How to propagate pothos in water, one unhurried step at a time.

Keep one.
Give one to a friend.

GATHER: a healthy vine · clean scissors · a glass jar · fresh water · a small pot for later

10 minutes + a little patience









01 Find a node

Choose a healthy vine. Find the little bump where a leaf meets the stem—that node is where new roots can grow.

02 Make your cutting

With clean scissors, cut just below a node. Keep 1–3 leaves and remove any lower leaf that would sit under water.

03 Let roots appear

Submerge the node in clean water; keep leaves above it. Set in bright, indirect light. Refresh water weekly or sooner if cloudy.

04 Give it a little pot

Once roots are 2–3 inches long, pot in airy mix with drainage. Keep it lightly moist at first, then follow the soil-check rhythm.

Roots often start in a few weeks, but timing varies. A leaf alone won't become a new plant—you need a piece of stem with a node.

05 (LAST ONE!) / A LITTLE PLANT REASSURANCE

Not every leaf is a perfect leaf.

Plants give us clues. Here's how to listen.

Start with the soil and light before changing everything at once. Small, thoughtful adjustments are enough.

Notice. Adjust. Give it time.

Why are the leaves turning yellow? –

Check the soil first. Persistently soggy mix can stress roots; let the top 1–2 inches dry and make sure the pot drains. One old yellow leaf can also be normal.

My vine is getting long and bare. –

Move it gradually into brighter, indirect light. Trim just above a node to encourage branching, then root the cuttings to fill out the pot.

The leaves are drooping. Is it thirsty? –

Feel before you pour. Dry soil can mean thirst; wet soil can mean stressed roots. If it stays wet and smells sour, inspect the roots and remove rotten parts.

Beautiful, but not for nibbling.

Pothos is toxic if chewed by pets or people. Its calcium oxalate crystals can irritate the mouth and gut. Keep vines out of reach; contact a vet or poison service if chewed or swallowed.

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A little attention. A lot of life.