

## Hort Tips

Contributed by Sandy Welches, MGV 2005

### Broken-stem First Aid for Veggies

If the central stem of a young tomato, pepper or eggplant folds over but doesn't break off, the plant is not doomed. Carefully straighten the stem, and brace it with a toothpick alongside the stem. Wrap the stem and toothpick with tape or soft string to hold it in place. When the stem regains its strength, carefully cut away the brace.

2019, August. Readers' Tips. *Fine Gardening*, (Vol. 188), p.16



### Leggy Succulents

Q.: I bought this amazing succulent on clearance last fall. Over the last few months, it has gotten very tall and spindly and has completely lost its shape. Can I trim it back and fix it somehow?

A.: The vast majority of succulents grow best with higher light levels than can be found in the average home. Indoor light levels during the winter months are especially low. Even if placed on your brightest windowsill, some varieties will still elongate over time. This elongation is a natural response as the plant searches for more light. The good news is that succulents are, in general, very easy to both rejuvenate and propagate. If you find yourself with a spindly plant, you can just snip off the spindly parts and stick those cuttings into the potting mix. Within a few weeks, your cuttings will root, and you will have a whole new plant. Hang onto the original plant, because it will likely push out new growth after you give it a haircut. Unless you are able to increase your indoor light levels, the plants may just become spindly again, but you can just keep trimming.

Bennet, P. (2019, March/April. Ask the Expert. *Ohio Gardener*, Spring Issue 1, pp. 8-9

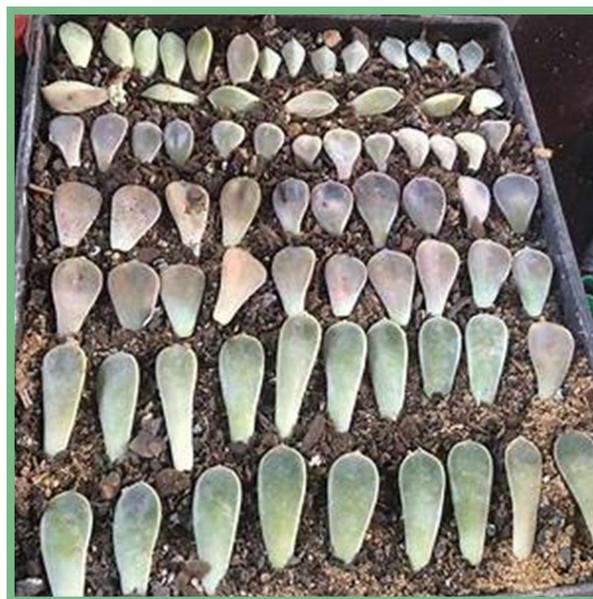


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