

How to Grow a Pineapple From Its Crown

Pineapple Crown & Indoor Propagation Printable Checklist (PDF)

Reference Guide: <https://plantogrove.com/garden/pineapple-top> | Keyword: PINEAPPLETOP

KEY GARDENING FACTS

- Pineapples (*Ananas comosus*) are ground-growing bromeliads-each leafy rosette grows one central fruit over roughly 24 to 36 months.
- Any sweet yellow fruit flesh left attached to the bottom of the crown decays in damp soil and causes soft rot before roots can form.
- Dormant root buds are already present as small brown bumps hidden under the lowest 1 to 2 inches of tough base leaves.
- Letting the stripped stem base air-dry for 5 to 7 days allows the cut end to seal before it touches moist potting mix.

STEP-BY-STEP CHECKLIST

[] Step 1: Pick a Fresh Pineapple with Firm, Healthy Center Leaves

Choose a ripe pineapple with crisp, bright green crown leaves that do not pull out when gently tugged. Avoid tops with mushy brown centers, cold-damaged leaves, or white cottony mealybugs.

[] Step 2: Twist Out the Crown and Trim Away Any Fruit Flesh

Hold the body of the pineapple with one hand, grip the base of the leafy crown with the other, and twist firmly until the stalk pops free. If you cut the top off instead, slice away all yellow fruit meat until only the firm, fibrous white stem core remains.

[] Step 3: Strip the Lowest Leaves and Cure the Base for 5 to 7 Days

Peel off the bottom 1 to 2 inches of small lower leaves to expose the tan ring of root buds along the stalk. Set the crown upright or on its side in a dry, shaded room for 5 to 7 days until the cut end feels dry and callused.

[] Step 4: Pot 1 to 2 Inches Deep in Fast-Draining Cactus & Perlite Mix

Fill a 6-to-8-inch pot with drainage holes using a fast-draining cactus/succulent potting mix (or standard potting mix blended with coarse perlite). Set the cured stem base 1 to 2 inches deep, firm the mix around the base so the top stands upright, and water lightly.

[] Step 5: Root in Bright Indirect Light, Then Move to Full Sun

Keep the pot in a warm spot (65 deg F-80 deg F) with bright indirect light for 6 to 8 weeks while roots establish. Once a gentle tug meets firm root resistance, move the plant to your sunniest south- or west-facing window (or an outdoor patio in warm summer weather) for 6+ hours of daily sun.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- * Do not soak an uncured pineapple top with attached fruit flesh in a glass of water-residual sugars sour the water and rot the stem.
- * Bring container-grown pineapple plants indoors whenever outdoor night temperatures drop below 50 deg F; frost and freezing temperatures severely damage tropical bromeliads.
- * Pineapple leaves have sharp spines along their edges on many varieties-place pots slightly back from narrow walkways and curious pets.

REGIONAL & SEASONAL NOTES

Warm Subtropical & Tropical Gardens (Frost-Free Areas such as South & Central Florida, South Texas, Hawaii): Can be planted outdoors in well-drained sandy beds with full sun to light afternoon shade; protect with frost cloth if a rare winter freeze threatens.

Cool & Temperate Regions (Areas with Autumn and Winter Frost): Grow as an indoor container plant near a sunny south window during fall, winter, and spring, and move the pot outdoors to