




Jane Perrone brings you all the latest news from the UK houseplant scene

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Voted at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021 winners for "best houseplant studio"

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## Your heart will grow on?



Millions of single-leaf *Hoya kerrii* - often marketed as 'sweetheart' plant' - fly out of florists, shops and garden centres. But will these individual heart-shaped leaves ever amount to a plant?

The answer, frustratingly, is maybe. Unlike certain succulents such as Echeverias, Hoyas will not grow a new plant from a single leaf. To make a *Hoya kerrii* cutting grow more leaves, some stem must be attached to the leaf stalk, aka the petiole.

I have heard from several people who have successfully grown a whole plant this way, although it can take several years for the plant to get established. It all depends on whether a sliver of stem was cut away with the leaf when it was taken. If this happens, the tissue in that stem will eventually sprout. Either way, it is a lot quicker to buy a *Hoya kerrii* stem cutting or a whole plant, if that's your aim.

Read more about taking care of Hoyas in [this article I wrote for Gardens Illustrated](#). If you want to get geeky, check out this guide to [totipotency](#): the botany of how propagation happens.

**Jane's planty week:** [investigating root mealybug lifecycles](#) | [learning about orchid conservation](#) | [loving the drama of this houseplant subreddit](#) | [getting nostalgic about my favourite planty blog](#)

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**News, offers and jobs**

around 20%. Here's the [press release](#) and the [academic paper](#).

**Rare Houseplant Festival launched:** GrowTropicals have announced a new event on August 21 in Leeds, featuring swaps, talks, workshops and specialist sellers including Ecuagenera from Ecuador. [Tickets are £5](#).

**I do love a plant rescue:** I got an advance copy of The Plant Rescuer, the new book by Sarah Gerrard-Jones, aka [@theplantrescuer](#). It's an excellent read, with beautifully clear and concise in-depth advice. Out April 28, but you can [preorder now](#). Sarah is also putting on a virtual [Guardian masterclass](#) on houseplant care on June 13.

**Baby Bio branches out:** The iconic bulbous bottle of Baby Bio houseplant fertiliser now has an organic counterpart: Baby Bio Organic Houseplant Food is approved by the Organic Farmers & Growers Association and has an NPK ratio of 3-2-5. [Product details are here](#).

**Job in the jungle:** The Living Rainforest in Berkshire is looking for a horticulture assistant as temporary maternity cover for up to nine months. [Download the job description](#).

**Small is beautiful:** Baby plants are becoming ever-more popular for houseplant lovers who want to start small, in both budget and pot size: and the range of teeny tiny plants is ever-expanding. [Silver Roots](#) is a player to watch in the baby plant game: right now you get a free Philodendron 'Silver Sword' with any £20+ purchase with code 'Marchfreebie'.

**Twitter chat:** #HouseplantHour takes place every Tuesday at 9pm on Twitter: everyone's welcome! Follow [@houseplanthour](#) to get involved.



### Featured follow

Rare plant collector [@houseplantsandheadkicks](#) has more than 500 houseplants in his South Wales home and he is not afraid to show them off, along with his tattooed torso. We are, of course, only interested in his impressive collection of aroids, ferns and cacti. He's also on [YouTube](#).

### Events

**March 12:** Wessex Orchid Society's [annual spring show](#) is on from midday-4pm at Portchester Community School, **Portsmouth**, with sales, displays and an orchid clinic.

**March 13:** Take part in the annual Hither Green Plant Swap from 11am-1pm: seeds, houseplants and seedlings welcome, at [Springbank Road Garden](#), **London** SE13 6SS.

**March 16:** Get knotted at a macrame plant hanger workshop at Water Lane Boathouse, Holbeck, **Leeds**, 6.30pm. Tickets £18.50, [book here](#).

**March 19 and 20:** Flagship RHS garden Wisley in **Surrey** hosts a [bonsai show](#) with bonsai displays, demos and pots, plants and equipment for sale.

Hello! I'm [Jane Perrone](#), host of houseplant podcast [On The Ledger](#), and a freelance journalist specialising in plants. My book [Legends of the Leaf](#) is available for preorder now.

What do you think of The Plant Ledger edition #1? Get in touch by replying to this email or hitting the mail button below.

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