

Propagate a Pineapple from the Top

1. PREP THE CROWN

- 1 Twist or cut the leafy top off the fruit (leave ~1½" fruit if you cut).
- 2 Peel off the lowest few leaves so ½–1" of stem is bare — roots form there.
- 3 Scrape off any soft fruit flesh (it rots easily).
- 4 Dry the crown **1–3 days** in a cool, airy spot so the cut calluses.

2. ROOT IT

Water method — Suspend so only the bare stem sits in water (leaves dry). Change water every 2–3 days. Roots in **2–6 weeks**. Pot when roots are ~1–2".

Soil method — Small pot with drainage; potting mix + sand/perlite. Plant bare stem only; don't bury leaf bases. Water once, then keep lightly moist.

3. BEST ENVIRONMENT

Factor	Ideal
Temperature	~65–85°F (18–29°C). Avoid drafts and temps under ~60°F.
Humidity	Average indoor humidity is fine; a bit higher helps while rooting.
Soil	Well-draining, slightly sandy. Never leave sitting in soggy soil.
Pot	Drainage holes required.

4. SUNLIGHT — CAN THEY GET TOO MUCH?

Yes — especially while rooting.

- **Rooting (first weeks):** Bright *indirect* light. Avoid harsh midday sun — no roots yet, easy to scorch.
- **Once rooted:** Full sun, **6–8+ hours**. South/west window or outdoors.
- Move shade → full sun over 1–2 weeks so leaves don't burn.

5. WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LEAVES

Brown outer leaves / dry tips while rooting = normal. Energy goes to roots. Snip brown tips with clean scissors; leave green tissue.

Look	Often means
Dry brown tips/edges	Underwatering or dry air
Soft / mushy brown	Overwatering / poor drainage
Center yellow or brown	Plant failing / rot — not normal
Sudden brown after move	Cold shock or sun scorch

6. IS WATER ENOUGH?

To start roots? Yes. Water alone is fine for rooting the crown. Change it often.	Long-term plant? No. Pot into soil once roots form. Needs light, warmth, drainage.	After potting? Water when top inch of soil is dry. Lightly moist — never swampy. Dilute feed in growing season later.
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TIMELINE

CALLUS CUT	FIRST ROOTS	NEW LEAVES	FRUIT (IF EVER)
1–3 days	2–6 weeks	After roots set	2–3+ years

Bottom line: Indirect light while rooting → full sun once established. Outer leaves may brown (normal); center mush/brown is not. Too much direct sun can burn an unrooted crown. Water roots it; soil + light grow it.