

**Helpful Hints**  
**April 2008**  
**Paul Schueneman**

When you are pulling out agave pups, soak them an hour or so prior to pulling. It makes the job muddier, but the pups pull out way easier and you get longer roots and rhizomes if you are going to propagate.

We all run across bargain-priced glazed pots at garage sales, supermarkets, etc. but pass them up because they have no drainage hole in the bottom. You can drill your own holes. You will need (1) a glass cutter, the kind with the real little wheel on the end of it, (2) an electric drill, and (3) a ½" tile and glass tungsten carbide tipped drill bit (not to be confused with a concrete and masonry bit). I bought my bit at True Value Hardware for \$11. Turn the pot upside down. With the glass cutter, etch a small 'X' where you want to drill the drainage hole. The etching helps keep the drill bit from sliding around on the pot. Start drilling at the intersection of the 'X'. If the bit still slides, etch deeper. Use moderate pressure on the drill but not too much or you'll break the pot. Be patient. It takes several minutes to drill the hole. Be careful. The drill bit gets really hot.

There are lots of things you can use to cover the drainage hole in pots: pot shards, window screen, sheet rock tape, newspaper, etc. But my favorite is coffee filters. They fit snug, are cheap, and come in various sizes to fit different sized pots.

Editor's Note: Do you have your own "Helpful Hints" that you would like to share? Submit them to the editor for publication in a future

Central Spine.