How To Use Transpiration Bags To Gather Water In A Survival Situation

Categories: Wilderness Survival

I first saw this technique on a TV show when I was a kid. I was straight out in the woods tying plastic bags to leafy trees and bushes!

A transpiration bag is effectively a solar still. The bag is placed and tied on a leafy branch, the sun heats the bag which draws water out from the leaves, this causes condensation, which runs down and pools at the lowest corner of the bag.

A transpiration bag placed in direct sunshine on an ideal branch, can produce around half a cup of water a day. You will need to set lots of bags to meet your water needs, but transpiration bags take no time to set up so they are still an effective passive way to collect water, if you have no other water source available.
A word of caution - transpiration bags should never be used on poisonous bushes or trees for obvious reasons. Make sure you can identify the bushes and trees you are using.

For more detailed information on transpiration bags, including a tutorial on how to use them, head over to the Practical Survivor website, via the link below.

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(Photo from: Practical Survivor)