

Emerald Goddess Gardens
emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Euphorbia milii E x lomi
Common Name	Thai Hybrid or PoySean
Mature Size	2' to 3'
Bloom Color	Pink
Bloom Period	Perpetual in tropical climate
Boom Form	Large inflorescent bract
Water	Mimimal
Light	Best In Full Sun
USDA Zone	9B & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Potted, Border, Specimen, Accent
Special Features	Large Showy Flower Interesting character growth



***Euphorbia milii* or Crown of Thorns** are spiny succulent shrubs that resemble cactus somewhat, but are not in the same botanical family. They are actually more closely related to poinsettias. The plant family is very large and very ancient, being named for Euphorbus, the Greek physician of King Juba II (about 50 bc to 19 AD) who is credited with the discovery of these types of plants. Baron Milius, one governor of the isle of Bourbon, introduced the species into cultivation in France in 1821. Some accounts suggest the kings physician may have used it to poison or sicken his enemies.

The common name comes from the legend that a larger cultivar of this plant was used to weave the thorny crown of Christ. The thorns are said to represent his suffering and the small oval blooms, droplets of blood. Legend has it that prior to the Crucifixion Euphorbias grew straight, full and tall, and had large white flowers. After the Resurrection, the plant then grew gnarly and twisted, shrank in stature and would forever more 'bleed' red in shame for having been used to torment the Son of God.

Over the last 2 decades Thai growers have developed more than a thousand hybrids in a rainbow of color combination, in varying shades of red, pink, green, yellow and cream. Nearly all have compact, upright forms and very large long lasting flowers. These cultivars are known as Poysean, which means '8 saints' in Chinese, and are highly regarded as bringers of good fortune.

Many of these cultivars have been given common names in Thailand, but there is no formal or reliable nomenclature for them. In the US, they are primarily identified by color, but there are many variations in shade in and hue, but all have similar growth and flowering habits.

These have a very interesting growth habit and are very versatile plants with many attractive possibilities. They are suited for indefinite potted culture, or make great accent or specimen plants. It makes a great accent or specimen plant. Like many of our botanical wonders, its beauty comes with some cautions; this plant is toxic if ingested in large quantity, and the sap can be irritating to the skin of some sensitive individuals. However, it tastes horrible and is covered in thorns, so the chances of accidental ingestion are low. Crown of thorns are very drought tolerant and are a good plant choice for remote corners and other areas that lack constant irrigation.

If you have any questions, please email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

You can go here to check your zone. [National Arboretum - USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map.](#)

Care of Your Cactus or Succulent Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter sizes plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 to 10 inch diameter (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial specialty cacti and succulent potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. DO NOT use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light all day.
- Take care not to over water. The primary cause of problems with cacti and succulents is becoming saturated with too much water.
- Moisture crystals can be recycled for other plants if desired, but do not use them for cacti and succulents.
- Be sure excess irrigation water can drain out of the pot quickly and completely. Do not allow the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water.

Most cacti and succulents can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the upper 30's (F), are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40 degrees F) with adequate, full spectrum light, air circulation, and are not over crowded or over watered.

For quick answers to any growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

You can check your USDA Zone by visiting our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.