

Emerald Goddess Gardens
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Botanical Name	c
Common Name	Life Saver Cactus
Plant Family	Asclepiadaceae
Mature Size	4" x 8"
Bloom Color	Deep Maroon
Bloom Period	Spring to fall
Boom Form	Unique to the species
Water Requirements	Little
Light	Best in full sun
USDA Zone	9, 10, 11
Fragrance	Slight
Uses	Rock garden, potted
Special Features	Unusual shaped flowers, easy to grow



There are somewhere between 30 to 60 different species of this unusual and unique African native succulent. Although it is commonly called a cactus due to the it's similarities shape and water requirements, it is not a member of the cacti family.

Huernias are low growing perennial succulents with angular fleshy stems lined with large, but soft spines. The stems are grey green and in some cases, as with Huernia, blushed with red.

The flowers are unique to the species, generally small (an inch or two in diameter) with 5 pointed 'petals' in an interesting and unique striped pattern with a raised deep maroon ring in the center that resembles a life saver candy.

Huernias are easy to grow, with few special considerations, for the best results:

- Pot or plant in a course, free draining media.
- Clay pots are helpful for encouraging drying between watering, but not an absolute requirement
- Protect from frost or freeze
- Avoid overwatering
- Treat any signs of fungus (typically a sign of over watering) promptly.
- Locate in full, direct light.

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

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

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 size 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.

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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.