

Emerald Goddess Gardens
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Botanical Name	Pachypodium lamerei
Common Name	Madagascar Palm
Mature Size	10 to 12 feet
Bloom Color	White
Bloom Period	Summer
Boom Form	Single
Water	Minimal
Light	Direct Light or Full Sun
USDA Zone	9, 10, 11
Fragrance	Slight
Uses	Specimen, Bonsai, Indoor or Outdoor Pots
Special Features	Unique and Unusual Easy Care Low Maintenance



If you enjoy unique and unusual plants, then a Madagascar Palm belongs on your Must Have List. I can think of few other plants that offer as much character and interest, with so little care and maintenance. In fact, when these fail to thrive, the primary cause is over care, ie, too much water and/or over application of fertilize and chemicals.

They are not really palms at all, but are a semi-succulent species in the Apocynaceae Plant Family, and aside from the slight resemblance in growth habit to palms (large trunk topped with foliage) they have more in common with cacti and other caudex (plants that form large swollen looking trunks) and succulent plants. Pachypodium translates to 'swollen foot' and refers to unusually shaped trunk.

As Madagascar Palms grow, the lower foliage sheds away to reveal a pale greenish silver toned trunk covered with semi-soft spiked thorns and begins to expand out in the middle, when pruned they will branch and develop multi trunks easily and can be easily trained into even more unique, twisting character specimens forms. They are a favorite selection for Bonsia culture, and make very attractive large outdoor specimens.

Mature plants have a long bloom cycle through the warm season, producing a large cluster of lightly fragrant single white flowers in the crown of the canopy of thin, strap leaves.

They can be grown as potted plants indefinitely and easily adapt to growing indoors in a very well lit, warm location, or can be planted outdoors within their recommended zone range,.

Direct planting of 4 inch size starter pots is not recommended. For the best results, transplant your new plant into a larger pot and allow it to grow a bit larger before setting it out within the recommended Zone Range.

When your new plant has filled the new pot with roots and has grown larger, then care for it as you would a cactus or succulent.

- Amend soil as needed to create a loose, well draining planting area.
- Locate in direct, bright, full spectrum light.
- Avoid over-watering. Water needs are minimal.
- Feed a high quality slow release plant food with the initial planting, and yearly thereafter.
- Prune top to encourage branching if desired.
- Protect from frost and freeze

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

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

This plant is intended for use as an ornamental, decorative item only. All parts of the Brugmansia species contain compounds that are scientifically validated as biologically active, and should therefore be considered toxic. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommended nor endorse the ingestion or other use of ornamental plants for homeopathic treatments, herbal remedies, spiritual experience enhancement, or recreation.

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 over watered.
- 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.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape. Be aware that a scar from pruning is unavoidable and inherent with many cultivars.

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 30's and maintained in a 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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