



Emerald Goddess Gardens
emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Pereskia godseffiana
Common Name	Gooseberry
Mature Size	6' x 6'
Bloom Color	Cream
Bloom Period	Summer
Boom Form	Clusters
Water	Moderate
Light	Full sun to light shade
USDA Zone	10, 11
Fragrance	None
Uses	Specimen, Barrier
Special Features	Edible Fruit



Commonly called ***Barbados, Spanish or West Indies Gooseberry, Lemon Vine, Sweet Mary, Blade Apple, Rose Cactus, Leaf Cactus***

When I first saw this plant, and it was described to me as 'tropical' cactus vine, my response was...'what?' 'huh?'. My first thought was that 'tropical cactus' was somewhat of an oxymoron. But, that is exactly what this species is.

Pereskia is native to the rain forests of South America, but is a true member of the cacti family). This cactus starts out as an erect woody shrub, and then spreads out to run and vine. Left unchecked, it will easily climb to cover a tree.

Leaves are cactus like and are bright golden yellow in color. The new growth begins burgundy and fades to peach pink. The coloration will vary depending on light levels.

This plant flowers in the summer and fall. The flowers range in color from white to creamy yellow tinged pink, and have a light somewhat lemony fragrance. A fruit, that is generally considered to be edible, follows the flowers. The fruit is commonly used to make jam in Jamaica.

Pereksia is a unique item and makes a great conversation piece. It is frequently grown in hanging baskets, or hanging over a wall or fence. It's thorny habit makes it useful as a boundary planting to discourage intruders. However, that same habit requires care be taken in handling to avoid injury from the thorns.

Email us with any growing or planting questions at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

You can check your zone by visiting our website 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 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 are maintained in a 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 emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com.

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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. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

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.