



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: Euphorbia milii 'Roller Rink'
- Common Name: Dwarf Pink Crown of Thorns, Roller Rink
- Plant Family: Euphorbiaceae
- Mature Size: 2 ft.
- Growth Habit: Low growing bush
- Bloom Color: Neon Pink
- Bloom Form: Multilayered Floret
- Bloom Time: Perpetual
- Water Needs: Minimal
- Light Needs: Full Sun
- Recommended Zones: 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Interesting Growth Habit, Long Bloom Cycles
- Suggested Uses: Ground Cover, Accent, Potted Specimen
- Growers Notes : Take care to avoid thorns when pruning



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 king's physician may have used 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.

This particular cultivar is a dwarf form that only reaches about 2' to 3' tall when fully mature, and is almost always covered in exciting neon pink multilayered flowers (well actually the little flower is the greenish center and the colored portion is a bract (a special kind of leaf, that changes color, ie poinsettias).

Roller Rink is a unique crown of thorns in that its characteristic circular blooms appear layered on top of each other. Their stacks of vibrant pink flowers bring on a retro feel that leaves us longing for the days of glow-in-the-dark roller skating and neon clothing.

It has a very pleasing rounded growth habit and is a very versatile plant with many attractive possibilities. It makes a great bedding or border planting. It also is nice potted plant and can be used as a front corner anchor and transitional item in the landscape.

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage branching and shape.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilizer with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

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Care of Your Cactus or Succulent Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for you 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 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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