



Gymnocalcium Pflanzii

CULTIVATION:

Gymnocalcium are very gratifying plants, their culture is easy and their flowering is abundant if we give them a well-drained relatively rich substrate (if possible not limestone). Water regularly in summer (but do not overwater). Keep rather dry in winter. It needs frequent re-pottings and a very luminous exposure but avoid direct exposure to the sun rays. This species is particularly easy and accommodating, seldom suffering from cryptogamic diseases. Feed with a high potassium fertilizer in summer. Hardy as low as -5° C (or less) if kept dry.

SPECIAL CARE FOR VARIEGATED FORMS:

In the summer it is best to avoid direct sun during the hottest hours of the day (but they benefit from morning sun that helps to produce strong and colourful spines). In case of cultivation when in a sunny place it is best to plant the variegated form facing northeast, so it gets the least amount of direct sunlight as possible.

PROPAGATION:

Usually by Seed. Seeds should be sown in a well-drained soil mix. Surface sowing is the best. Seeds germinate in 14-28 days at 25° C, or from cuttings in spring (let them dry till the ends callous well). Then replant them in fresh cactus soil that is ever so slightly moist, and keep it that way until they root). The grafting is useless (excluded the cultivars completely deprived of chlorophyll), it does not bring anything concrete.

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