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Astrophytum

Cacti grow in many fantastic shapes and forms from small and solitary to large and branching and every combination in between, always evoking the beauty and serenity of the desert landscape. They have also evolved to thrive with drought. *Astrophytum* is a genus of six species of cacti.

Light: Direct sun; cacti prefer about 6+ hours of direct sunlight each day. A south- or west-facing unobstructed window is ideal

Water: Cacti grow best when allowed to fully dry out between waterings; in winter, cut back on watering allowing a longer interval of drought, and for some cacti, stop watering completely

Environment: Cacti enjoy a hot, dry environment without humidity; a porous succulent soil mix is preferred for ideal drainage

Toxicity: Many varieties are reported as not toxic; however, their protective spines, hooks, and thorns may keep curious cats and dogs away; no information available in particular about *Astrophytum*

Of Note:

- Cacti have shallow roots compared to other house plants and many will grow best when roots are rather snug in their container
- If you overwater your cactus it could develop root rot and overall plant collapse
- In ideal conditions, *Astrophytum* can flower a yellow flower, some species with a red throat

*When planting in a pot without a drainage hole, help avoid over watering by estimating 25% of the container's overall volume, with appropriate drainage materials incorporated when planting.