

# Cactus Seeds

## Description

Cacti are popular for a variety of reasons, including their unique look, easy care, and long life. Many flower beautifully in the spring or summer most are beautiful in both shape and coloration. There are two type of cactus plants: desert and forest. The desert varieties are the ones most commonly seen in garden stores and many are hardy in all types of weather.

## Care Instructions

Growing plants from seed is not as hard as you might think You should only plant a seed as deep in the soil as the seed is wide. When seeds are planted too deeply the tiny plants emerge and begin to grow but do not reach the surface before they run out of stored food.

**SOIL:** A good potting mix, amended with ½ its volume of granite, perlite or pumice for drainage, makes a good mix for growing cacti from seed. To pasteurize soil, put it in a shallow heatproof pan, place it in the oven at 300 degrees F for 30 minutes

**PLANTING:** Be sure that all containers to be used are clean. Water the soil thoroughly and let it drain completely before planting. Spread the seed evenly over the top of the soil. Cover the seed lightly with the mix or very fine sand. When planted, cover the container with any transparent lid. This will retain moisture and allow light to reach the seedlings.

**GERMINATION:** Cactus seeds need both light and warmth to germinate. A sunny window is a good location, but be careful the light is not too strong and therefore too hot. The moisture retained by the cover should be sufficient to germinate the seed. Most cactus seeds germinate within 3 weeks, but some take longer. Once the spines are showing, raise the cover for ventilation during the day. Do not allow the soil to dry out. Do not swamp them in puddled water but do not let them dry out completely.