



Planting and Identifying Your Cacti



Contents

- Terra Cotta Planter
- Packet of Wild West Cactus Seed
- 3 Scenic background cards
- Bag of Planting mixture
- Sprouting Greenhouse
- Watering Tube
- Bag of Desert Stone

DuneCraft is pleased to introduce the Wild West Cactus Roundup. Celebrate the spirit of the West with this fun and decorative planter. With it, you will be able to sprout and grow over 20 kinds of cacti - many native to the famed Wild West.

Your planting pod has been specially designed to grow and display a beautiful and varied collection of cacti from the included seed. Simply follow the below instructions and enjoy years of growth with very little work.

Planting Instructions

1. Remove the planting pod, cactus mix, decorative pebbles, watering tube, seed packet, background cards and instruction sheet from the packaging and place all on a large sheet of newspaper on a clean, flat surface.

NOTE: Keep the plastic packaging for use as the sprouting greenhouse.
2. Massage soil bag to remove any clumps that may have formed during shipping.
3. Cut soil bag across top and use the unsharpened end of a pencil to sift soil into tubes. Fill the large tubes first and then the small ones. Remove any clumps that may fall into the planting tubes.
4. Fill tubes in the planting pod to within 1/4-3/8 of an inch below the top with cactus soil. Press lightly with the unsharpened end of a pencil to insure tubes are completely filled to that point.
5. Brush any extra soil that may have fallen on the base away with an artist's paintbrush or blow lightly on the base over a trash can.
6. Carefully roll seeds out of the envelope on top of the soil. The seeds are very small so do this slowly. Put 7-10 seeds in the five large tubes, 5-7 seeds in the two medium tubes, and 4-5 seeds in the nine small tubes.
 - The seeds can roll out of the envelope quickly, so you may want to empty them onto a sheet of paper to insure you have enough for all the tubes.
 - When planting seeds, go from left to right to easily keep track of which tubes have seeds in them.
7. Water each tube thoroughly using the included watering tube:
 - Place tube in cup of water;
 - Place finger tightly over end of tube to hold water;
 - Once tube is directly over planting pod, slowly release finger to water cacti. Smaller tubes may only absorb half or a quarter of the tube of water. The planting containers will take between 1 and 5 tubes of water, depending on their size;
 - Repeat above for watering remaining cacti.
8. Place planting pod in the included sprouting greenhouse.
9. Place greenhouse in a warm location, (either near a window or heating vent, or outside in warm temperatures) and in bright light.
10. Seeds should start to sprout in one week. Water any dry tubes once a week while the cacti are sprouting. Leave the planting pod in the greenhouse for one month.

11. Remove planting pod from sprouting greenhouse and place scenic background card in slots at back of planting pod. Place in permanent location in bright light, direct or indirect. A windowsill is the best location to grow your Cactus Roundup.
12. If desired, place 1/8-1/4 of an inch layer of Moon Rocks or Crater Dust around grown plants. This should be done after the seeds have sprouted. Use the unsharpened end of a pencil to sift the gravel out, similar to the method used for the soil.

Care Instructions

Watering Your Cactus Roundup

Cacti are extremely adaptable plants and can tolerate different amounts of water. Their needs vary according to season, requiring more water in the spring and summer and less in fall and winter. Within limits, cacti that receive more water will grow faster; however, it is very important not to overwater, and to **let the soil dry completely between waterings**. Put small amounts of water in each tube to let them absorb it quickly. Water them several times to thoroughly water. Follow the guidelines below to insure your cacti's safe and healthy growth.

WATERING SCHEDULE	REGULAR GROWTH	AGGRESSIVE GROWTH
Spring-Summer	every 3-4 weeks	every 1-2 weeks
Fall-Winter	every 6-7 weeks	every month

Overwatering

If you dramatically overwater and need to dry the Cactus Roundup out, try the following methods:

- Remove from greenhouse and place Cactus Roundup in direct sunlight, or
- Remove from greenhouse and place Cactus Roundup on heating vent for a day or two

Transplanting Cacti

If after several waterings and about two months, all the tubes do not have cacti in them, then you may want to transplant some cacti into the empty tubes. To transplant, follow these steps:

1. Water Cactus Roundup thoroughly
2. Use pencil or tweezers to make hole in empty tube
3. Gently pull cactus out by base with tweezers and put in hole
4. Use tweezers to firm soil around cactus
5. Water again

Tips For Planting and Care

- If you see mold forming, you may want to water the Cactus Roundup with a 1:40 mix of hydrogen peroxide and water. This will function as a safe, effective fungicide and will prevent the mold from appearing. You can also manually remove any mold.
- Cacti seeds are one of the few seeds that need light to germinate. That is why they are supposed to be placed on top of the soil. However, an easy way to improve the germination rate is to place the Cactus Roundup in bright light or under a grow light while sprouting.
- An easy way to increase the humidity in the air of the sprouting greenhouse is to soak a folded paper towel in water and place it in the greenhouse.
- Another way to increase the humidity in the air of the sprouting greenhouse is to tape the side and top, as well as the hang-hold hook holes to prevent any air exchange between the outside and inside.
- Not all seeds will sprout at once, although all your tubes should have cacti within a month. Each time you water for the first year or so, you have a chance of seeing additional cacti sprout. This is because some seeds have internal "seed clocks" that program them to sprout over a certain period.
- Be very careful on where you place your Cactus Roundup. It is very lightweight and can be knocked over quite easily.
- Fertilize only once in both spring and summer, never in fall or winter.
- Cacti prefer warm temperatures; do not let them freeze.
- Keep container in bright light, direct or indirect. The garden is designed for use on windowsills, but the cacti can also grow in an office environment with adequate fluorescent lighting.
- The garden can also be grown outdoors; however, do not expose the unit to rain as the container may become flooded.

Strains and Varieties of Cacti

The following strains of cacti represent the wide appeal and usage of the plant. All of these species may be found in your seed packet—watch their distinct characteristics emerge as they grow in your planting pod!

Carnegiea Gigantea



heights over 60 feet, live for more than two centuries, and weigh up to 20,000 pounds.

Giant Saguaro

Originally called *Cereus Giganteus*, this variety was renamed in 1908 to honor Andrew Carnegie. It is the State flower of Arizona. These cacti originated in Arizona where over 78,000 acres were set up for their growth at the Saguaro National Monument. One of the largest and most slow-growing cactus, it can reach

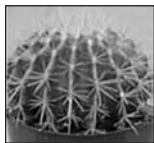
Cereus Peruvianus



The origin of this plant is uncertain, but thought to be in Brazil or Argentina. It is one of the oldest known cacti. This cactus is blue-green, and columnar with irregular ribbing. This cactus grows up to 50 feet tall. Some variations of this cactus are known as the curiosity plant.

Hedge Cactus

Echinocactus Grusonii



The plant originated in central Mexico. Its name comes from the Greek word "echinos," which means porcupine, because of the dense coat of gold-yellow spines that cover its green body. It is spherical when young and becomes oval with age. It ultimately will reach a height of four feet and a width of 3 feet. Native Americans used the hollowed out barrels of this cacti for cooking devices. The strength of the spines prevented the body from caving in as they were used to cook on hot rocks.

Golden Barrel Cactus

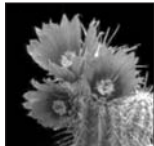
Echinocereus Engelmanni



Originally, this cactus is from New Mexico and Texas. The name is derived from the Greek word "echinos," which means prickly, and the Latin word "cereus," meaning wax candle. Cacti generally have a waxier texture to help them reduce water loss. The red fruit is edible and jam is made out of it in southern Texas and tastes like strawberries. The fruit is about the size of a strawberry and known in Mexico as a pitaya.

Strawberry Cactus

Echinocereus Fasciculata



These cacti are found in Southern Arizona and southern New Mexico, at elevations of 5,000 feet. This cactus has green stems and is cylindrical in shape. It can reach a height of up to 18 inches and a diameter of 3 inches. It naturally forms clumps of 3-20 plants. Its spines vary in length, contributing to its shaggy look. Its most notable feature is its magenta to reddish-purple flowers, which are large and can be larger than the plant itself.

Robust Hedgehog

Ferocactus Latispinus



These cacti are found in central Mexico at elevations of approximately 6,500 feet. They are known for having for unique central spines. Three spines point upward and one spine points downward. *Latispinus* is translated to "wide-spined." A mature plant only grows to about 16" tall by 16" across. The plant body secretes a sugary solution in the spring and summer, thought to attract pollinating ants.

Crow's Claw

Ferocactus Wislizeni



It has distinctively patterned red or rust colored and white spines on its light green body. All the hooks on the spines of the cactus point downward. These plants are found across, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Mexico. The generic name of the plant comes from the Latin word "ferus," which means wild or fierce to describe its prickles. This cactus is used to make sweets. The sweet and sour flesh of the cactus is candied in a sugar solution. For this reason, it has been known as the Candy Barrel Cactus, as many of these plants have been used and destroyed to make candy.

Fishhook Barrel Cactus

Gymnocalycium Mix



The cacti originate exclusively in South America, with most varieties from Argentina. There are over 80 varieties in this species. These cacti typically need less light than many other cacti. They have been called the perfect cacti for windowsills and limited spaces. They are small and compact. They will bloom at an early age and bloom often. Flowers are white and pink, sometimes red.

Chin Cactus, Spider Cactus

Gymnocalycium Mihanovichii



Originating in the Chaco Boreal in Paraguay, this plant's most unique characteristic is its color. The body of the cactus is grayish-green with red highlights. When the plant is exposed to gamma rays it loses its chlorophyll and becomes bright red. The plant is

Ruby Ball Cactus

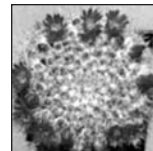
considered to be a miniature cactus. It only grows to be one inch high and has a two inch diameter. It was originally discovered growing under bushes where it was only exposed to direct sunlight a few months out of the year.

Gymnocalycium Saglione



This cactus originated in Argentina in a 600 mile north/south area. In addition, the plant tends to grow at higher elevations, 3,300 to 9,800 feet. It has a silver-olive green body with black, white, and red-brown spines. The range of colors in the spines of this plant make it unusual. The funnel-shaped flowers can be an inch and a half in diameter, and are white with pink edges.

Mammillaria Mix



This is one of the largest genus in the Cactus, or Cactaceae family, with over 200 species. These plants are found in central and northern Mexico, as well as the southwestern USA. They are divided into two groups. The pincushion varieties have straight spines and the fishhook varieties have curved spines. They are small, free blooming cacti that are easy to raise and to take care of. One of the best blooming cacti, it is an excellent choice for beginners. The curved spines of some varieties were used as fishhooks for centuries. The chili shaped fruits are called "chillitos" in the Southwest and have a sharp strawberry taste.

Pincushion Cactus

Mammillaria Bocasana



This variety of *Mammillaria* originated in the state of San Luis Potosi in north-central Mexico. The name refers to where it was actually discovered, the Sierra de Bocas. The stem of the cactus is a bluish-green, but is concealed by the thick, white hair-like spines. The plant grows naturally in a sphere shape and forms large clusters of them rather quickly. This cactus blooms easily and profusely from spring until fall.

Snowball Cactus

Notocactus Brasilensis



This plant originated in Southern Brazil, specifically Rio Grande do Sul. The name comes from the Greek word "notos," meaning south. All 25 species of this group come from South America. The body of the cactus is somewhat flattened and dark green and has eight to ten ribs.

Star Cactus

Oreocereus Trolli



This plant originated in the Andes in Argentina, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia. The name is from the Greek word "oros," which means mountain – its exclusive habitat. It grows at elevations ranging from 11,480-13,000 feet. The cactus is wrapped in long white, hairlike spines, which thicken in increased light and can reach lengths of almost three inches. These unique spines protect the cactus from the hot sun and mountain cold. The thick low-growing species with dense hair has strong red central spines. In fact, the fine, soft, hairy spines of the cactus are gathered and used like down to stuff pillows and bedding.

Old Man of the Andes

Pilocereus Azureus



These cacti originated in northern South America. They frequently grow in high altitudes in the mountains. They are used to build houses and for firewood in treeless regions of Argentina. It is an upright Brazilian species, with short yellow spines mostly hidden by dense white hair. As these unusual cacti mature, they develop a "pseudoccephalum," which are a lot of wooly spines growing at the top of the cactus.

Sprouting Guarantee

Your Cactus Roundup is guaranteed to have at least 35 sprouts at the end of a sixty day period. If you do not achieve this and would like to try it again, send us your old seed pack, the UPC code, cut from packaging, and the store receipt. We will send you a replacement pack free of charge.

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