

Stains 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

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

Cereus Peruvianus

Hedge Cactus



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.

Echinocactus Grusonii

Golden Barrel Cactus



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.

Echinocereus Engelmannii

Strawberry Cactus



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.

Echinocereus Fasciculata

Robust Hedgehog



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.

Ferocactus Latispinus



sugary solution in the spring and summer, thought to attract pollinating ants.

Ferocactus Wislizeni



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.

Gymnocalycium Mix



and bloom often. Flowers are white and pink, sometimes red.

Gymnocalycium Mihanovichii



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



in diameter, and are white with pink edges.

Crow's Claw

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

Fishhook Barrel Cactus

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.

Chin Cactus, Spider Cactus

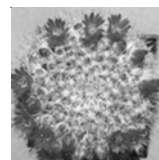
The cacti originate exclusively in South America, with most varieties from Argentina. There are over 80 varieties in this species. These cacti typically need less light than many other cacti. They have been called the perfect cacti for windowsills and limited spaces. They are small and compact. They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

Ruby Ball Cactus

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 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.

Mammillaria Mix



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.

Mammillaria Bocasana



them rather quickly. This cactus blooms easily and profusely from spring until fall.

Notocactus Brasilensis



Oreocereus Trollii



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.

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 "pseudocephalium," which are a lot of wooly spines growing at the top of the cactus.

Pincushion Cactus

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

Snowball Cactus

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

ODD PODS™

Planting and Identifying Your Cacti



Made in the USA

Contents of the Odd Pod Package:

- 1 planting pod with spill guard
- 2 1-oz. bags of Moon Rocks and Crater Dust
- 1 packet with 150 cactus seeds
- 3 scenic background cards
- 1 1-oz. bag of planting mix
- 1 sprouting greenhouse (clear plastic package)
- 1 watering tube
- Planting and Identifying Your Cacti- this sheet

DuneCraft, Inc. is pleased to introduce Odd Pods- a special collection of cacti that is out of this world! Cacti only grow naturally in North, South, and Central America. When the first explorers came to the America's they thought cacti were quite possibly from space as they had never seen any plants like them before. Who knows? Maybe they were right!

Your planting pod has been specially designed to grow and display a beautiful collection of cacti from the included seed. Simply follow the 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. If desired, place 1/8-1/4 of an inch layer of Moon Rocks or Crater Dust over the seeds. This can also be done after the seeds have sprouted, which is the preferable method. Use the unsharpened end of a pencil to sift the gravel out, similar to the method used for the soil.
8. 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.
9. Place planting pod in the included sprouting greenhouse.
10. Place greenhouse in a warm location, (either near a window or heating vent, or outside in warm temperatures) and in bright light.
11. 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.
12. 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 Odd Pod.

Sprouting Guarantee

Your Odd Pod 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.

DuneCraft, Inc.
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Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

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Care Instructions

Watering Your Odd Pod

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 Odd Pod out, try the following methods:

- Remove from greenhouse and place Odd Pod in direct sunlight, or
- Remove from greenhouse and place Odd Pod 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 Odd Pod 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 Odd Pod 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 Odd Pod 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 Odd Pod. 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.