

Cacti Care Information Sheet

The biggest killer of Cacti is kindness – caused mainly by overwatering

Watering

Strictly no watering from mid October to mid March (even if they start to shrivel).

Mid March onwards start with a fine spray once a week, increasing when you see signs of new growth, then water according to the weather - if warm and sunny water once a week.

Don't water on the foliage when sunny to avoid scorching marks on the plant, best to just water into the pot.

IF IN DOUBT DON'T WATER

Cacti respond well to **Feeding**, every second watering use Tomorite at half the strength used for tomatoes.

Winter Temperatures

In the winter keep at 10-15°C; too cold they start to rot, too warm and moist they become etiolated (leggy) because they are trying to grow and there is not enough light. Melo Cactus need a little more heat 15-20°C.

Taking Cuttings or removing and planting offsets is very easy, but they are prone to rot, leave a cutting somewhere warm and dry for at least a week until it has callused over.

For **Repotting** or cuttings equal parts John Innes No.3 and fine sharp gravel, once repotted DO NOT WATER.

As plants get older they can get brown hard patches called corking, this is perfectly normal.

Problems:

Mealybug can be controlled with spray
snails can be a problem sometimes
Red spider if conditions are too dry

Useful Tools:

toothbrush
small paintbrush
tweezers
long needle nosed pliers