

# Grow Beautiful Desert Gems™ Cacti

A Guide by

Costa  
Farms®





## Easy. Colorful. **Fun.**

*Add more color* to your space with Desert Gems™ colorful cacti!

Beautiful Desert Gems™ colorful cacti are the perfect way to brighten your day! These easy-growing plants offer jewel-tone colors that practically sparkle in the sun. Because they come in a range of colors, it's a cinch to decorate with Desert Gems™—either go with one tone or create a fun color scheme by mixing different varieties.

We've put together this guide so you can learn more about these delightful plants and get ideas for how to use Desert Gems™ in your home or office. If you have questions beyond what you find in this idea book, please visit our website at [www.costafarms.com](http://www.costafarms.com) or send us an email at [information@costafarms.com](mailto:information@costafarms.com) and we'll be happy to help however we can.

Happy Gardening!

—Your Friends at Costa Farms



# get the basics

Desert Gems cacti thrive with little care. Here's what you need to know for success with these low-maintenance beauties.



## Light

Like most cacti and succulents, beautiful Desert Gems™ thrive in bright light—even in direct sun indoors. They love a sunny, south- or west-facing window sill, but will also will grow well under artificial lights, such as those found in an office, so you can enjoy their cheery colors on your desk.

Just like with most plants, the more light they get, the faster your Desert Gems™ cacti will grow.

## Water

One of the things that makes Desert Gems™ cacti so easy to grow is that they don't need a lot of water. They survive harsh conditions by storing water in their stems. And you'll notice they lack leaves, so they don't release as much moisture into the air as they breathe.

Water Desert Gems™ cacti when the potting mix has started to dry through—that's typically once every 10 to 14 days.

## know before you grow

### 4 Fun Facts

- 1. THEY ARE REAL CACTI.** Desert Gems™ are part of a cactus family Mammillaria and are native to areas of Mexico.
- 2. THEY'RE NOT GMO.** We have a special process for adding the color to Desert Gems™, but it's not done with genetic engineering.
- 3. THEY CAN BLOOM.** In time, if you keep them in bright light, they can produce tiny white flowers. Because they like so much light, though, they rarely bloom much when grown indoors.
- 4. THE COLORS DON'T FADE.** Treated Desert Gems™ spines keep their color, so you don't need to worry about them fading. However, new growth will come out white, non-colored spines.

### 4 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. CAN I MAKE THE NEW GROWTH COLORFUL?** We haven't yet figured out a DIY kit. But you can prune the new growth as it develops to keep the colors.
- 2. DO I NEED TO FERTILIZE?** Easy-care Desert Gems™ don't have to be fertilized, but if you wish, you can feed once or twice in spring and summer with a general-purpose houseplant fertilizer.
- 3. ARE THEY SAFE AROUND MY PETS?** Desert Gems™, like most cacti, do have spines. But the spines are small and relatively soft, so they're not as hazardous. Still, we recommend keeping the plants out of the reach of pets.
- 4. WHERE CAN I GET ONE?** Look for Desert Gems™ at your local garden center, home improvement center, or mass merchandiser.

## ► What's up with the colors?

Think Desert Gems™ are too colorful to be natural? You're right. We use a special process to give Desert Gems™ cacti their colors. In nature, the plants have small white spines—and if you keep your Desert Gems™ long enough, you'll see the new growth they produce comes out with white spines.

Desert Gems™ are not spray painted, so you don't have to worry about suffocating the plants under a layer of paint. Look closely and you'll see the green part of the cacti are still green—so they can take in light and breathe just the same the way they do in nature.



Learn more about Desert Gems™ at [CostaFarms.com](https://CostaFarms.com)

# Grow Desert Gems all year

Add life to your home with colorful Desert Gems™.

Desert Gems™ are perfect for kids

Winter



Enjoy beautiful Desert Gems™ cacti during the winter, when you could use a burst of color the most. They're an ideal treatment for your cabin fever.

Easter



Their cheerful colors make Desert Gems™ perfect for the start of the spring season! Dress them up as an adorable—and easy-care—Easter gift for older children.

School Year



Because Desert Gems™ are easy to grow, they're perfect for teacher to inspire art projects at school.

Summer



Desert Gems™ keep your thumb green when it's too hot outside. They thrive in hot, sunny window sills.

Fall



Warm-hued red, orange, and yellow Desert Gems™ are perfect autumnal decor items.

Holidays



Celebrate the holidays with red and green Desert Gems™! They're festive together, and continue to look good for the rest of the year if you remove other holiday accents.

They are perfect gifts!



# the best plant buddies

*Accent your Desert Gems™ with these plants.*

Here are some of our top picks for mixing and matching with Desert Gems™ in your home or office.

Jade Plant



Jade plant is a delightful succulent that has waxy, dark green leaves. Its rich color makes it a perfect partner to grow with bright Desert Gems™.

Snake Plant



Snake plant is one of the easiest of all houseplants to grow. Its neutral colors and upright growth habit makes it an ideal accent for beautiful Desert Gems™.

Aloe



Aloe varieties (including colorful 'Donnie' shown here, as well as traditional aloe vera) like lots of light and don't need much water, making them perfect partners.

Life Saver Plant



Desert Gems™ are show stoppers on their own, and pair beautifully with equally interesting Life Saver plant.

Panda Plant



Panda plant's leaves are coated in soft gray hairs, so they have a neutral appearance that accents and contrasts Desert Gems™.

Echeveria



Exotic echeveria's fun form and silvery or purple color makes it an ideal accent for the bright, bold tones of Desert Gems™.