

Hooker's Orchid Cactus, Night-blooming Cereus (*Epiphyllum hookeri*)



Pure white flowers, the size of a dinner plate, open after dark and stay open all night, closing with the morning sun's rise. The fragrant blooms appear intermittently during the summer months. A definite TROPICAL, don't allow this plant to go below 35°F. In colder zones, grow as a container specimen and bring inside during the winter months. Set outside in a shady to partly sunny spot during the summer. These do great in hanging baskets; they will get

large so be sure to plan ahead!

Bring inside when temperatures start to fall into the low 40's or high 30's (Fahrenheit).

UN-ROOTED CUTTINGS: These plants are SUPER EASY to root; simply place each leaf cutting, cut end down vertically into some well draining (cactus suitable) soil (see photo). If more than one end is cut, then place the end down that was wrapped in the newspaper when it arrived down. If you've lost track of which end was in the newspaper, don't worry, it will actually root either way. I usually bury mine about half way down (so, if the cutting is 4" long, bury 2" of it) in the soil; leaving the remainder of the leaf above ground level. Be sure to pack the soil tightly around the leaf to remove any air pockets and make sure the whole bottom of the leaf has good contact with the soil.



Water sparingly but regularly (don't allow water to stand), as you would a cactus and within a few weeks you'll have rooted, growing plants! When the plants are larger, they will appreciate some 'bloom booster' fertilizer; when they are small, regular water soluble fertilizer applied monthly will keep them growing strong.

These root quickly in warm temperatures (80°F and higher), often you'll see new growth within 3 weeks; in cooler temps it will take longer. Don't overwater trying to get them to root or grow faster, that will cause them to rot, just give them time, as long as they are still green, they are ok. For best results, keep them as warm as possible, but out of direct sun.

ROOTED CUTTINGS / PLANTS:

You're cuttings are already rooted and growing. They've been shipped with the soil in tact. Your plants can continue to grow in the container they are in for some time, so you can choose to leave them in that container or remove the whole group from the container they were shipped in and plant them in a larger container (or in the ground, if you live in a tropical zone 10). I suggest starting these in a 1 quart container or a 6" hanging basket.

Water sparingly but regularly (don't allow water to stand), as you would a cactus. When the plants are larger, they will appreciate some 'bloom booster' fertilizer; when they are small, regular water soluble fertilizer applied monthly will keep them growing strong.