

Mother of Thousands **Babies** - Cactus Succulent

Growing Instructions

Scientific Name: Bryophyllum daigremontianum Synonym: Kalanchoe daigremontiana
Family: Crassulaceae Other Common Names: Alligator Plant, Chandelier plant
Hardiness: 9 - 11

These plants are nice outdoor and indoor plants as well. When mature, they will have a nice cluster of bell shaped blooms that are pink to coral color, generally blooming in the winter through spring if not knocked down by frost. They will reach 5' in height given the right conditions.

These plants can be planted outdoors in zones 9b and warmer; in colder climates these make wonderful container plants that can be set out on a patio or deck in the warm summer months, but will need to be kept from freezing in the winter.

Sprinkle babies over prepared, well draining soil in a container or the garden. Water from the bottom when soil is dry; do not over-water. Keep warm and in partial shade for best growing results.

FOR CONTAINER PLANTING:

You may sprinkle these babies over prepared soil in pots. These are live plants, not seeds, do not cover with soil. The soil should be well draining, sandy soil or potting soil that is for cactus. Make sure you have good drainage in the bottom of the pots, you may want to put an inch or two of rocks or Styrofoam pieces or rocks in the bottom of large pots to promote good drainage. The worst thing to do with these plants is keep them too damp. They like it on the dry side rather than too wet. Keep your plants in a bright area of your home or greenhouse, they are fine in full sun or partial shade. Of course, during the warmer months, they will be happy on your porch or patio. As they grow, if you continue to increase their pot size, they will continue to get taller and soon you will have babies sprouting up all around them in their pots as their offspring drop from their leaves into the soil. It is best to NOT put mulch on the top of the soil in their pots so their babies can reach the soil easily Do NOT OVERWATER. Allow soil to dry between waterings. Monthly treatment with a water soluble fertilizer will help them grow strong, but they grow well even without it.

FOR GARDEN PLANTING:

If you are in a warm zone and are planning to plant these outside, select an area with well draining, sandy soil in full sun or partial shade. Sprinkle babies over prepared sandy soil, do not cover. To promote more babies, don't mulch the ground where you plant these! The babies will grow much better if allowed to fall directly onto soil rather than mulch. I have never fertilized my outdoor plants, but, if you feel the need to do so, I would use a water soluble fertilizer (like Miracle Grow) on them, following the manufacturer's directions.

If you find you need to transplant them when they are larger, the only problem you may find is they 'wilt' and may even lie completely over on the ground after transplanting a large plant. DON'T DESPAIR! Stake them to keep them growing straight until their roots are re-established. Water them in well in their new place and they will soon be growing to the sky again for you!