

Red Dragon Flower *Huernia coropegia*

Other Common Names: Life saver cactus; former botanical name: *Huernia schneideriana*



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RED DRAGON FLOWER

Huernia coropegia

Perennial Evergreen Cactus/Succulent



Light: Part Shade **Water:** Low, no water in winter
 8-12" Tall x 24" Wide

Color: Showy Red blooms **Blooms:** Summer

Care: Bring indoors at 50 degrees w/ bright indirect light
Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

Perennial evergreen cactus/succulent native to Tanzania. Erect soft spiked stems that grow 8" – 12" tall and drape with shoots that can be propagated. Flowers grow at the base of the stems. Low maintenance

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: Minimum 9a

Height Size: 8" – 12"

Flowers: 1-2", 5-point diameter with velvety red inside and deep purple backs

Bloom Time: Summer

Leaves: Evergreen toothed stems

Growth Habit/Shape: Rapid growth of long stems

Dormancy: Fall and winter; roots will die back

Soil Requirements: Needs drainage due to shallow roots

Propagation: Offsets and stem cuttings. Stem cuttings cut at 45* angle using rooting powder then callous before planting. Others take cuttings and plant directly in gritty soil with caution to not over water.

Indoor/Outdoor: Shady outdoors above 50 degrees F; too much light plant becomes pale green – yellow. Indoors bright light but not direct sunlight.

Pests and Diseases

Mealybugs identified as cotton-like substances or white waxy bodies treat with Neem oil. Fungal disease from overwatering.

Plant Care

Water monthly during dormancy. Dilute fertilizer (high phosphorous/low nitrogen to encourage flowers) spring and summer only. Repot every few years in the spring to encourage growth. Excessive length of stems or yellowing is a sign of overwatering.

Warning

White milky substance is considered toxic, even though the plant cooked is considered a famine food.

Sources for Additional Information

LLIFLE Encyclopedia of Succulents. [Huernia schneideriana A.Berger](https://www.llifle.com/plant/Huernia_schneideriana).

Royal Botanical Gardens KEW. [Huernia schneideriana A.Berger](https://www.kew.org/plant-profile/Huernia-schneideriana).

World of Succulents. [Huernia schneideriana \(Red Dragon Flower\)](https://www.worldofsucculents.com/plant/Huernia-schneideriana).