

# Plant Facts

## Red Dragon Flower *Huernia coropegia*

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



Photo: Lea Watson/CC BY-NC-SA/DentonCountyMGA

### General Information

Perennial evergreen cactus/succulent native to Tanzania. Erect soft spined 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.

### 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**

### 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

LLFLE Encyclopedia of Succulents. [\*Huernia schneideriana A.Berger.\*](#)

Royal Botanical Gardens Kew. [\*Huernia schneideriana A.Berger.\*](#)

World of Succulents. [\*Huernia schneideriana \(Red Dragon Flower\).\*](#)