

Plant Facts

Red Dragon Flower - *Huernia ceropegia*

Other Common Names: Red Dragon; **Previous botanical name:** *Huernia schneideriana*



Lea Watson, CC BY-NC-SA, Denton County MGA

RED DRAGON FLOWER

Huernia ceropegia

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 succulent native to Tanzania. Erect, stems with soft spikes that grow 8" – 12" tall and drape as they lengthen. The genus *Huernia* includes carrion scented flowers but *H. ceropegia's* fragrance is mild.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 9a-11

Height Size: 2 ft W x 8-12 ins H

Flowers: 1-2" diameter, 5 points with velvety red inside and deep purple back; appear at base of stems

Bloom Time: Summer

Leaves: Evergreen stems with soft teeth

Growth Habit/Shape: Rapid growth of long stems

Dormancy: Fall/Winter; roots experience some die back

Soil Requirements: Well drained due to shallow roots

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

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoors in shade above 50° F then bring inside/in greenhouse in Winter; too much light turns it pale green/yellow. Indoors in bright light but not in direct sunlight.

Pests and Diseases

Mealybugs -- treat with Neem oil. Fungal disease from overwatering.

Plant Care

Fall/Winter dormancy: water rarely. In Spring/Summer water sparingly, only use weak fertilizer (high phosphorous/low nitrogen to encourage flowers). Repot every few years in the Spring. Excessive length of stems or yellowing is a sign of overwatering.

Notes

White milky substance from cut stems is considered mildly toxic. Boiling neutralizes that property and historically, it was considered a low nutritional value famine food.

Sources for Additional Information

LLIFLE Encyclopedia of Succulents

https://www.llifle.net/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Asclepiadaceae/30328/Huernia_schneideriana

World of Succulents

<https://worldofsucculents.com/huernia-schneideriana-red-dragon-flower/>