



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

Plant Care Guide

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



Moon Cactus

(*Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*)

Moon Cactus, scientifically known as *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, is a popular and vibrant cactus variety often grafted onto another cactus species. These unique cacti are prized for their colorful, round-shaped tops and are native to South America.



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Origin: South America

Care Level & Placement: Easy Care, Indoor (Bright, indirect light)



Light

Moon Cacti thrive in bright, indirect sunlight. Place them near a sunny window where they receive indirect light for several hours a day.



Water

Water the cactus sparingly. Allow the soil to dry out completely between waterings. These plants are adapted to arid conditions and prefer low humidity.



Soil

Plant Moon Cacti in well-draining cactus or succulent soil. Fertilize sparingly during the growing season with a diluted, balanced liquid fertilizer.



Fun fact

The vibrant top of the Moon Cactus is actually a mutation that lacks chlorophyll. It relies on the rootstock cactus for nutrients and is unable to photosynthesize on its own.



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Pet Friendliness

Moon Cacti are generally non-toxic to pets, but it's best to keep them out of reach to prevent accidental ingestion.



Stress Signs

Shriveled Top: If the colorful top of the Moon Cactus starts to appear shriveled or wrinkled, it may indicate dehydration. Increase watering slightly, but avoid overwatering.

Yellowing or Browning: Yellow or brown discoloration on the top of the cactus could be a sign of too much direct sunlight. Move the plant to a location with more indirect light.

Root Rot: If the base of the cactus becomes soft and discolored, it may be suffering from root rot due to overwatering. Reduce watering and ensure proper drainage to prevent further issues.

Botanical Family: Cactaceae

Botanical Name: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*

Common Name: Moon Cactus, Ruby Ball Cactus, Hibotan Cactus

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