

Zig Zag Orchid Cactus Basket



Two other curiosities. First, unlike most other cactus, the zigzag cactus is spineless. Secondly, you may also see aerial roots growing underneath the stem when the humidity is high. In the wild, the plant uses them to root onto other tree branches and thus spread. In your home, their only purpose is to make you ask questions.

Disocactus/epiphyllum 'Angular Fire'

- **Use:** AKA Fishbone Cactus. It's obvious where it gets its common name! Its stems are very curious: flattened, yet succulent, they are deeply and alternately toothed, giving the stem a zigzag appearance. Fishbone cacti are easy to care for, and make a great addition to any cactus collection. With its unique shape and vibrant colour, it can really brighten up a room.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grow in a bright spot; they do best when they get enough light for at least part of the day to cast a strong shadow. These indoor plants will tolerate lower-light spots, especially for relatively short periods. Water cacti sparingly. They typically don't need watering more than once every 10 to 14 days -- and possibly even less if they're grown in low light or consistently cool temperatures. Take care not to overwater cacti -- too much moisture is the easiest way to do them in. Don't require much fertilizer, but if you wish to fertilize, you can do so as little as once a year or spring-summer for best growth. With a cactus fertilizer
- **Growth:** Slow growth rate to about 2-3' tall and wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 9-11, Annual, houseplant Bring indoors below 55 degrees
- **Foliage:** The stems are green (although older stems can become woody and brown at the base) and carry out the plant's photosynthesis, since, like most cactus, it has no leaves. A lot of people mistake the broad, flat stems for leaves, but the only leaves this plant ever produces are the first two leaves (cotyledons) of its seedlings and they're long gone by the time you pick up a plant at the nursery.
- **Flower:** At around 3 years old or so (and that's young for a Epiphyllum), it will begin to bloom, usually in the late fall, then sometimes a second time months later. The flowers are borne from tiny areoles (cushiony white growths) at the base of the stem's teeth. The bloom starts as a tube up to 8" long that opens into a cup-shaped pure white flower with pale yellow or orangey outer "petals" (actually sepals). At about 4" in diameter, they are smaller than most other orchid cactus, but proportionate to the size of the plant. The blooms are strongly and deliciously scented, but only at night. It takes only one to perfume the entire room and several together are enough that you can smell the bloom throughout the house. Can produce fruit. The flesh inside the fruit is translucent and gelatinous with numerous tiny black seeds. Scoop out the flesh: it's absolutely delicious and tastes much like a pitaya or dragon fruit (*Hylocereus undata* or a similar species): not surprisingly, since it is a close relative.