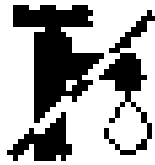


# Easter Lily Cactus



Use in rock container gardens in summer or as a house-plant in a sunny window. –Photos from NC State Extension



*Echinopsis oxygona* (Previously known as: *Cereus oxycopus*, *Echinocactus eyriesii*, *Echinocactus oxycopus*, *Echinonyctanthus oxycopus*  
*Echinopsis multiplex*, *Echinopsis oxygona* f. *multiplex*)

- **Use:** This lovely low-maintenance cactus that can add some charm to your indoor or outdoor space? Native to South America! It is commonly known as the Easter Lily Cactus due to its large, white, lily-like flowers that bloom during the Easter season. It is also known as the easter lily plant or night-blooming cereus. It gets its botanical name from the Greek words "ehinus" (hedgehog) and "opsis" (spines and shapes).
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full sun to partial shade, but it will appreciate some protection from the afternoon sun. In containers use well-drained cactus or succulent mix is recommended to promote adequate drainage. Since it is fast-growing for a cactus, it will require a little more water than some cacti. Be sure to cut back watering in the winter months. The plant will produce offsets that can be used to propagate new plants when they are large enough. They may also be propagated by seeds.
- **Growth:** As the plant matures you can expect it to reach up to 12-16" tall and wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 8b-11; Annual; Very heat tolerant! Bring indoors in winter into a sunny room when temps go below 40 degrees at nite. Able to withstand a light frost, if kept dry in South Georgia.
- **Foliage:** Green to grayish-green stems that eventually will become short and cylinder-like. Each stem forms 11 to 18 straight ribs and has short, black or yellowish brown spines. Each areole has 1 to 5 central spines and 3 to 15 radial spines.
- **Flower:** The flowers are showy, funnel-shaped, white or pink, measure 4 inches in diameter, and appear on long wooly stems. The blooms have a sweet scent and are night-blooming. On hot days, the flowers open in the evening and wither by midday the following day; however, on cooler days, the bloom will last a bit longer. Blooming occurs in spring to summer. Sometimes a mature plant may have as many as 12 blooms at the same time. Large green fruits with tufts of long fibrous threads appear after flowering is completed.

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