

# Firesticks Pencil Cactus



## *Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Firesticks'

- **Use:** Known as "Firesticks" or "Pencil Cactus," is a succulent plant known for its striking appearance and unique characteristics. The pencil cactus is incredibly low maintenance and can handle a lot of neglect. It also doesn't usually have issues with pests or diseases. If you tend to travel a lot and don't have time to regularly take care of a houseplant, this might be the plant for you. This stem succulent is not a true cactus and photosynthesizes in its stems, not through the small leaves that appear at the end of its new growth (which are inconsequential to the plant's health). The thick, white sap the Pencil Cactus oozes when cut or snapped is a poisonous latex, but has been used in traditional medicine by many cultures to cure cancer, excrescence, tumors, and warts.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Thrives in bright indirect light to direct sun. Not suited for low light conditions. Water every one to two weeks allowing soil to dry out between waterings. Increase frequency with increased light. Don't sweat it. Average home humidity is fine; can tolerate dry air. Prefers temperatures of 65°F-70°F. Average home temperature is generally suitable.
- **Growth:** Slow grower 6-10' tall and wide, but can easily be kept shorter with pruning.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 10 Houseplant, Annual
- **Foliage:** The stems of *Euphorbia tirucalli* "Firesticks" are bright red or orange, giving it the name "Firesticks." The color intensifies in response to sunlight and environmental conditions such as cold and drought. Its leaves are small and slender and fall off quickly. This succulent yields a highly toxic milky sap if broken or torn. **Keep away from pets.**
- **Flower:** In the late spring and early summer, small flowers appear at the ends of the green branches.



This plant filters pollutants from the air while releasing oxygen. With this plant in your home, you breathe cleaner air.