



SUCCULENT EUPHORBIA CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Give African milk tree (*Euphorbia trigona*, including 'Rubra') bright, indirect light. Pencil cactus (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) enjoys bright light and can take direct sun after gradual acclimation. Avoid sudden exposure to intense sun. These succulent euphorbias resemble cacti but belong to a different plant family.

WATERING

For African milk tree, let the top 1-2 inches of mix dry before watering sparingly but thoroughly. For pencil cactus, allow the mix to dry between waterings. Drain completely and empty the saucer. Check deeper in large pots and reduce watering in cool or low-light conditions.

SOIL

Use a gritty, freely draining cactus and succulent mix in a container with drainage holes. Choose a stable pot that supports tall growth without excessive extra soil. Avoid heavy, waterlogged mix. Repot carefully, keeping stems upright and protecting your hands from spines or broken branches.

TEMPERATURE

Warm indoor conditions, roughly 65-85 degrees F, suit these plants. Keep them frost-free, protected from cold glass and drafts. Ordinary household humidity is adequate, and good airflow helps reduce fungal problems. Pencil cactus naturally carries few leaves; do not overwater to encourage foliage.

FERTILIZING

Feed sparingly during active growth with a suitable succulent fertilizer, following label directions. Reduce or stop feeding when growth slows. Do not fertilize stressed or damaged roots. If stems become weak in a dim room, improve the light gradually rather than adding more feed.

PESTS & HANDLING

Check for mealybugs and mites, and isolate affected plants before treatment. Wear gloves and eye protection when handling or pruning. Milky sap is strongly irritating to skin and eyes and harmful if swallowed. Keep plants securely away from children and pets; avoid unnecessary cuts.