



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GRAFTED MOON CACTUS CARE

LIGHT

Grafted moon cacti, sold as neon grafted cacti, prefer bright, filtered light. The brightly colored top and green rootstock have different roles, so do not treat the whole plant like a sun-loving desert cactus. Introduce stronger light gradually and protect it from intense afternoon sun through glass.

WATER

Water the potting mix thoroughly only after it has dried, then let excess water drain away. Do not leave the pot sitting in a saucer of water. Reduce watering when growth slows in winter, while checking the green rootstock for stress rather than following a rigid calendar.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use a small pot with drainage and a freely draining cactus or succulent mix. Keep the green stem at its original depth and the graft well above the mix. Decorative gravel should not hide a wet stem base. Avoid moving a small plant straight into a much larger, moisture-holding pot.

FEEDING

Feed lightly during active growth with a fertilizer suitable for cacti, following the labeled dilution. Do not fertilize a severely dry or rotting plant. Strong fertilizer will not repair a failing graft or replace adequate light. Little or no feeding is needed during slow winter growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Keep warm and frost-free, away from cold windowpanes and drafty doors. Inspect the join between the colorful top and rootstock periodically. Remove dead material carefully, avoiding injury to the graft. Repot only when needed, handling the spiny plant with suitable protection rather than squeezing its top.

HELPFUL TIPS

The colorful top often lacks enough chlorophyll to live independently and depends on its green rootstock. Detached colored offsets should not be expected to root and thrive like ordinary green cactus cuttings. A soft, dark base suggests rot; an intact plant should not be dismantled simply because it is grafted.