



ELEPHANT BUSH CARE

LIGHT

Elephant bush (*Portulacaria afra*), also sold as dwarf jade, needs very bright light. A sunny south-facing window is ideal, with gradual acclimation to direct sun. Protect pale, variegated leaves from scorching heat. This small-leaved succulent has reddish stems and can be trained as a bonsai.

WATERING

Allow the potting mix to dry well before watering thoroughly. Let excess water drain and empty the saucer. Reduce watering greatly during cool, low-light winter conditions. Check moisture deep in the pot; consistently damp roots can rot even when the surface looks dry.

SOIL

Use a very well-drained cactus or succulent mix with grit, pumice or perlite. A container with drainage holes is essential. Avoid oversized pots that stay wet. Repot when roots fill the container, keeping the stem base at its original depth and supporting top-heavy branches if necessary.

TEMPERATURE

Warm household conditions and average indoor humidity are suitable. Protect from frost and cold drafts; routine misting is unnecessary. Summer outdoor plants must be acclimated gradually and returned indoors before chilly autumn nights. A sudden reduction in light can cause some leaf shedding.

FERTILIZING & PRUNING

Feed lightly during active growth with a balanced or succulent fertilizer at the labeled rate. Stop feeding during slow winter growth. Pinch or prune just above a pair of leaves to encourage branching. Use clean tools and handle brittle branches carefully.

PESTS

Watch for mealybugs in stem joints and leaf bases. Isolate infested plants and choose a treatment labeled for succulents; test a small area first because some sprays damage foliage. Leaf drop can reflect stress or excess water. Check light, moisture and drainage before changing care.