REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Beaucarnea recurvata Ponytail Palm

A Garden Guide



Native to eastern Mexico, these unusual plants have interesting trunks and fun foliage. While they can grow 15’ in the wild, these slowing growing plants are much smaller when grown indoors in containers - usually around 3-4’. Currently found in the coastal state of Veracruz, Mexico. Veracruz has a wet, rainy season from June to October, and a dry season from November to May. The climate has been described as tropical wet and dry savannah. They have been known to live for well over a hundred years in the wild, living in rocky, nutrient-poor soils. Their thick trunk stores water - they are champions at handling drought - and prefer very well draining potting mixes. Hardy to zones 9b-12.

Light: Beaucarnea recurvata love full sun (6-8 hours of sunlight) and tolerate part sun (4-6 hours of sunlight). They will require less water in shadier situations.

Water: They do not like to have their feet wet, so use a high quality, well-draining potting mix (cactus mix is fine) and only water when the pot is completely dry. They require very little water in winter. Keep in mind that small pots hold less water. Checking on your houseplants weekly is a good idea. This plant rarely has health issues, but when it does, it is usually from overwatering.

Fertilization: Fertilize during the growing season with cactus fertilizer.

Maintenance: Rotate the pot 1/4th every week so the plant grows evenly. Dead leaves can be removed at any time. Due to their slow growing habit, they may not require repotting every year, but instead every two or three years.

Temperature: 70F or higher for summer growth, above 50F in winter.

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