

Bunny Ear Cactus



What it is

A paddle-shaped prickly pear cactus whose pads grow in pairs like little ears, dotted with tiny fuzzy-looking spines.

Light

Bright light, ideally a south or west window with about 6 hours of sun. Move it into stronger sun gradually. In a dim spot the pads stretch out thin.

Water

Soak and dry. Water thoroughly, then let the soil dry out completely before the next watering. When unsure, wait.

Soil and pot

Gritty cactus mix in a pot with drainage holes. Terracotta helps the soil dry faster. Handle with gloves or folded newspaper, because the tiny spines are easy to pick up on skin.

Temperature and winter

Warm is good. Keep it above 50°F and away from cold drafts and frost. In winter, give it a cooler, bright spot and water very little, because it rests. The pads may turn a little gray, which is normal.

Common mistake to avoid

Watering on a fixed schedule through winter. Soft, droopy pads usually mean the roots are too wet.