

Old Man Cactus



What it is

A slow-growing, upright cactus covered in long, shaggy white hair, which is really a coat of modified spines.

Light

Lots of light. Give it a sunny spot with 4 to 6 hours of direct sun.

Ease it into stronger sun slowly, because a sudden jump can sunburn it.

Water

Water well, then let the soil dry out completely before watering again. Water sparingly in cooler months.

Soil and pot

Excellent drainage is the rule. Use a gritty cactus mix in an unglazed pot with drainage holes, so extra moisture can evaporate.

Temperature and winter

Keep it warm, ideally above 55°F, and away from frost.

In winter, hold back almost all water and fertilizer. Damp soil plus cold is what it cannot handle.

Common mistake to avoid

Overwatering, especially in a cool room in winter. The hair can hide early trouble, so check the soil, not just the look.