

Barrel Cactus (Golden Barrel)



What it is

A slow-growing, round, ribbed cactus with golden spines that stays compact for years.

Light

The brightest window you have, ideally south facing with 4 to 6 hours of sun. Ease it into stronger sun over a couple of weeks to avoid sunburn.

Water

Soak and dry. Water well until it drains, then wait until the soil is completely dry before watering again. Go by the soil, not the calendar.

Soil and pot

Gritty, fast-draining cactus mix. Terracotta helps the soil dry out. A drainage hole is a must. Wear thick gloves or use folded newspaper when you handle it.

Temperature and winter

Normal room temperatures are fine, but keep it above 50°F and away from cold window glass. In winter, rest it in a cool, bright spot (50 to 60°F is ideal) and water only about once a month, or less. No fertilizer in winter.

Common mistake to avoid

Keeping the same watering schedule all year. Winter overwatering is the most common way barrel cacti are lost.