













### Common Pests & Issues

-  Spider mites – Fine webbing, dull or stippled skin. More common in dry indoor air. Increase airflow and rinse plant gently with water.
-  Mealybugs – White cotton-like clusters around ribs or roots. Remove with alcohol on a cotton swab and monitor closely.
-  Fungus gnats – Small flying insects near soil surface. Usually caused by overwatering. Allow soil to dry fully between waterings.
-  Root rot – Soft, dark, or mushy base. Caused by excessive moisture or poor drainage. Remove affected tissue and repot into fresh Active Cactus Soil Mix.
-  Sunburn – Pale or bleached patches after sudden sun exposure. Move to shade and re-acclimate gradually.
-  Etiolation (stretching) – Thin, elongated growth caused by insufficient light. Increase light intensity or duration.

**“Studies show exposure to greenery reduces stress and improves mood” (Bratman et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2015).**

**“NASA’s Clean Air Study documented the air-purifying capabilities of indoor plants” (Wolverton et al., 1989).**

### Prevention Tips

-  Always use well-draining soil such as Active Cactus Basic Soil Mix, Active Cactus Premium Soil Blend or Active Cactus Elite Soil Blend to reduce moisture-related issues.
-  Allow soil to dry completely between waterings. Overwatering is the most common cause of plant stress.
-  Provide strong light to encourage thick, healthy growth and natural resistance.
-  Inspect new plants before placing them near your collection to prevent pest spread.
-  Maintain good airflow indoors to reduce spider mites and fungal problems.
-  Avoid oversized pots that retain excess moisture.



### Open Garden (Free)

Public Discord access, announcements, and educational content.

### Seedling Member – \$10/month

- 10% store discount
- 24-hour early access

Quarterly 4–6 inch ornamental seedling

### Grower Member – \$25/month

- 15% store discount
- 48-hour early access
- Access to Grow Tutorials

Bi-Monthly Seedling Starter Kit (6-inch pot, tray, Active Cactus Soil Mix and Top Dress and a 5–7 inch ornamental seedling)

### For more information on the Cactus Collective

Email: [ceraphinacactus@gmail.com](mailto:ceraphinacactus@gmail.com)

### Colorado Front Range

720 687-0145

[ceraphinacactus@gmail.com](mailto:ceraphinacactus@gmail.com)

[linktr.ee/ceraphinacactus](http://linktr.ee/ceraphinacactus)

[ceraphinacactus.com](http://ceraphinacactus.com)

Ceraphina Cactus — Growth Made Easy

# CC

# Cactus Care Guide



[linktr.ee/ceraphinacactus](http://linktr.ee/ceraphinacactus)



Colorado Front Range

720 687-0145

[ceraphinacactus@gmail.com](mailto:ceraphinacactus@gmail.com)

[ceraphinacactus.com](http://ceraphinacactus.com)

## Watering

- Water deeply and infrequently.
- Completely soak the soil.
- Allow soil to dry completely between waterings.
- During active growth (spring–summer), water every 10–14 days depending on light and temperature:
  - Brighter light + warmer temps (75–90°F) = soil dries faster → water closer to 9–12 days
  - Moderate light + mild temps (65–75°F) = average dry time → water around 10–14 days
  - Lower light + cooler temps (below 65°F) = slow drying → extend to 14–21+ days
- Reduce watering in fall and winter (see seasonal care)
- One hour after watering, discard any standing water in the pot saucer.
- Adding air flow with a fan can help drying, as needed.
- Using an Active Cactus Top Dress blend will help with top soil erosion and reduce fungus gnats

### \*Cactus love bright light and a wet dry cycle.

## Indoor Lighting

- Place your cactus near a bright south-facing window whenever possible. South exposure provides the strongest natural indoor light in Colorado.
- If using grow lights, provide 12–14 hours of light per day. Keep lights approximately 12–18 inches above the plant and adjust as it grows. Utilize a timer to help manage light
- Brighter light encourages thicker, more compact growth. Low light can cause stretching (elongated, thin growth).
- Understanding bulb strength:
  - Light intensity is measured in lux, PPFD ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ), or DLI (daily light integral).
  - A standard household bulb (800–1100 lumens) is usually not strong enough alone for cactus.
  - For healthy growth, use high-output LED grow lights rated 2000+ lumens or dedicated plant lights.
  - The closer the light (without heat stress), the stronger the intensity reaching the plant.
- Target indoor light ranges for ornamental Pachanoi:
  - Lux: 2,000–4,000+ lux minimum (higher is better if heat is controlled)
  - PPFD: 100–300  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$  for steady indoor growth
  - DLI: 10–20 mol/day supports compact, healthy growth indoors
- Free light-measuring apps (lux or PPFD meter apps), such as PPFD Meter for Android, can help estimate brightness at plant level.
- Rotate your plant every 1–2 weeks to promote even growth and prevent leaning toward the light source.
- During winter months, supplemental grow lighting is often necessary due to shorter daylight hours.

## Pot & Soil

- Choose a pot with proper drainage holes. Drainage is essential in Colorado's dry but intense climate.
- For a 6–10 inch Pachanoi, a ½ gallon pot (approximately 6 inches wide) is ideal. This size provides enough root space for steady growth without holding excess moisture. A pot that is too large retains water too long. When repotting, increase pot size only 1–2 inches at a time to maintain healthy dry-down cycles.
- Signs your cactus is root bound: roots circling the bottom of the pot, roots emerging from drainage holes, or soil drying out extremely fast. When this occurs during active growing season.
  - Use Active Cactus Soil Mix for general ornamental growth and seedlings.
  - Use Active Cactus Premium Soil Blend for mature plants for enhanced drainage and aeration.
- Avoid heavy, moisture-retaining potting soils.
- Columnar cactus prefer fast-draining, oxygen-rich root zones.
  - After repotting, wait 5–7 days before watering to allow roots to settle and prevent stress.

### \*Fertilize sparingly. Up pot and refresh the soil approximately every 12 months with a good cactus soil like an Active Cactus Soil Blend

## Cutting & Propagation

- Use a clean, sharp blade to make a straight cut. Sanitize tools before and after cutting to prevent contamination.
- Allow the cut surface to dry and callous in a shaded, well-ventilated area for 5–10 days (longer for thicker cuts). The cut end should feel dry and firm before planting.
- Plant into dry Active Cactus Soil Mix or Active Cactus Premium Soil Blend. Do not water immediately after planting.
- Wait 7–10 days before the first light watering to encourage root formation and prevent rot.
- Keep newly planted cuttings in bright indirect light until roots establish. Avoid intense direct sun during this stage.
- Rooting may take several weeks depending on temperature and light. Warmer conditions (70–85°F) encourage faster root development.

## Transitioning Outdoors

- Begin hardening off in late spring once nighttime temperatures consistently stay above 50°F. Hardening off means gradually exposing your cactus to stronger sunlight and outdoor conditions so it can adjust without stress.
  - Start with 1–2 hours of gentle morning sun on Day 1. Increase exposure by 1–2 hours every few days over 7–14 days.
  - Indoor-grown cactus have softer skin and are more sensitive to UV. Sudden full sun can cause permanent bleaching or burn marks.
  - If the plant was under grow lights, begin with bright shade outdoors before introducing direct sun.
  - Ways to protect from intense sun:
    - Use shade cloth (30–50%) during peak afternoon hours
    - Place near a wall or patio that provides afternoon shade
    - Use a patio umbrella or canopy during high heat
    - Position where the plant receives morning direct sun with afternoon shade or partial shade
  - Watch for signs of stress such as yellowing, bleaching, corking, or soft patches. Reduce exposure immediately if these appear.
  - After acclimation, Pachanoi can handle several hours of direct sun, but many growers prefer morning direct sun with afternoon shade for optimal ornamental growth in Colorado.
  - If temperatures drop below 40°F, move plants indoors to prevent cold damage
- ### 17 Colorado Seasonal Care Checklist
- Spring (March–May)
    - Increase watering gradually as temperatures rise
    - Begin hardening off once nights stay above 50°F
    - Repot during active growth
    - Watch for rapid drying as sun intensity increases
  - Summer (June–August)
    - Water consistently based on light and heat
    - Provide morning sun with afternoon shade
    - Monitor for spider mites in dry heat
    - Protect from extreme heat waves and hail
  - Fall (September–October)
    - Gradually reduce watering frequency
    - Bring indoors before nights drop below 40°F
    - Stop fertilization (if used)
    - Inspect for pests before moving inside
  - Winter (November–February) – Dormancy Period
    - Growth slows or stops completely — this is normal
    - Do not water. Keep soil completely dry. Do not fertilize.
    - Move plants to a dark place and maintain temperatures between 45 and 55 degrees
    - Avoid repotting or taking cuttings until spring
    - When temperatures consistently stay above 45 degrees return to Transitioning Outdoors