

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR

Devil's Backbone

Care Guide

Euphorbia tithymaloides

DID YOU KNOW?

Devil's Backbone is native to *tropical Central America, the Caribbean, and South America*, growing in warm, dry, rocky conditions. That heritage means bright light, infrequent watering, and excellent drainage.

BEFORE YOU START · POTTING TIP

Every Moontime Devil's Backbone is **nursery-grown & pest-free**. Use a cactus and succulent mix or standard potting soil with 50% added perlite. A pot with drainage is essential.

Propagate by **stem cutting** in spring or summer. Allow the cut end to dry and callous for several days (important to let the latex dry), then plant in dry cactus mix. Water sparingly until new growth appears.

LIGHT	WATER	HUMIDITY	TEMP	PET SAFE	DIFFICULTY
Bright Direct	Dry Out Fully	Low-Avg	60-80°F	Toxic	Easy

Light

BRIGHT, DIRECT TO INDIRECT LIGHT — A SOUTH- OR WEST-FACING WINDOW IS PERFECT. AT LEAST 4-6 HOURS OF BRIGHT LIGHT PER DAY.

Needs bright light to maintain that signature zigzag structure. Will become leggy without enough sun.

- South or west window ideal
- Gets leggy without light
- 4-6 hours bright light
- Succulent-like needs
- Direct sun is fine

Water

ALLOW THE SOIL TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY BETWEEN WATERINGS — TREAT IT LIKE A SUCCULENT. IN WINTER, WATER SPARINGLY ONCE EVERY 3-4 WEEKS.

Deep infrequent watering is best. Root rot is the biggest enemy.

- Let soil dry completely
- Deep infrequent watering
- Never sit in standing water
- Drain fully after watering
- Once every 3-4 weeks winter

Humidity

LOW TO AVERAGE HUMIDITY — THIS PLANT IS PERFECTLY HAPPY IN NORMAL HOUSEHOLD AIR WITH NO HUMIDITY SUPPORT NEEDED.

No special humidity needs. Prefers drier conditions actually.

- Average household is fine
- Prefers drier conditions
- No special requirements
- No misting needed
- Happy in dry air

Temperature

PREFERS 60-80°F (15-27°C). BRING INDOORS IF TEMPERATURES DROP BELOW 50°F. NOT FROST TOLERANT.

Not frost tolerant. Bring indoors when temps drop below 50°F.

- Not frost tolerant
- Keep warm year-round
- Bring in below 50°F
- 60-80°F is the sweet spot

Soil

A CACTUS AND SUCCULENT MIX OR STANDARD POTTING SOIL WITH 50% ADDED PERLITE. EXCELLENT DRAINAGE IS ESSENTIAL.

Fast-draining soil is essential. Treat like a succulent.

- Cactus/succulent mix
- Excellent drainage needed
- 50% perlite if standard
- Fast-draining is key

Fertilizer

FEED ONCE OR TWICE DURING SPRING AND SUMMER WITH A DILUTED CACTUS FERTILIZER. NO FEEDING IN FALL AND WINTER.

Light feeder. Just once or twice in growing season is plenty.

- Once or twice spring/summer
- Diluted cactus formula
- Skip fall and winter
- Light feeder overall

REPOTTING

Take a stem cutting in spring or summer. Let the cut end callous for several days (let the latex dry), then plant in dry cactus mix.

COMMON PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Mushy Stems	Overwatering causing rot.	Let dry completely. Repot in fresh dry soil if needed.
Leggy Growth	Insufficient light causing stretching.	Move to a sunnier spot immediately.
Leaf Drop	Normal in cooler months or cold drafts.	Check placement and stabilize temp.
Milky Sap	Normal Euphorbia latex — irritates skin and eyes.	Wear gloves when pruning. Wash hands after.
Root Rot	Consistently wet soil without drainage.	Ensure drainage and reduce watering.

MOONTIME TIP

Devil's Backbone has a fierce name but is surprisingly easy-going — it thrives on benign neglect and bright light. Perfect for someone wanting something unexpected!

PET SAFETY

Devil's Backbone is toxic to pets and humans. The milky sap (latex) is a skin and eye irritant. Use gloves when pruning and keep away from pets and children.