



Prickly Pear Collection — Rooting & Care Instructions Opuntia varieties — Handcrafted on the Colorado Plateau by Art from the Hartt, Montrose, Colorado

Your collection includes the varieties circled below:

- ***Indian Fig (Opuntia ficus-indica) — the Traditionalist***
- ***Bunny Ear (Opuntia microdasys) — the Whimsical One***
- ***Gumby (Opuntia monacantha monstrosa) — the Cylindrical Wonder***
- ***Joseph's Coat (Opuntia monacantha variegata) — the Art Piece***
- ***Baby Rita (Santa Rita Hybrid) — the Showstopper***

Rooting your pads and sections

1. Let all cut ends sit in a dry spot for 3–7 days until a callous forms — this is the most important step and skipping it causes rot
2. Set pads upright or lay flat on top of dry, sandy cactus mix — do not bury deep, just stable enough to stand
3. Do not water for the first 2 weeks
4. After 2 weeks, water very lightly around the base — not on the pad itself
5. Roots typically establish in 3–6 weeks depending on warmth and light
6. Once rooted and showing new growth, water normally — let soil dry completely between waterings

A note on Gumby: Her older growth may show corking — a tan, woody texture at the base. This is completely natural, not damage or disease. It's how she builds her foundation. She may also drop a finger or two while settling in — just let those callous and they'll root on their own.

After care

- Full sun to bright indirect light — these are true sun lovers
- Well-draining cactus mix — they will rot in soggy soil
- Minimal water once established — less than you think
- Hardy outdoors in summer; bring inside before hard freeze in cold climates
- Zone 5-9 for summer outdoor use; all need winter protection in cold climates
- Baby Rita's purple coloring intensifies with sun and cool temperatures — don't be surprised if she looks different seasonally

Glochid reminder: Bunny Ear's golden polka dots are glochids — tiny barbed bristles that are nearly invisible and very irritating to skin. Handle with tongs or folded newspaper, not bare hands. Worth the caution — she's beautiful.

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