

Crown of Thorns

Pot & Soil

Choose a pot of size 6-8 inches tall to start growing from seeds. The pot is made up of clay or ceramic and has holes at the bottom to drain water completely.

Euphorbia plants are tolerant to low-quality soils and usually prefer well-drain soil so that the air can circulate within the roots. Either you can prepare soil or buy from a nursery store containing 2 parts soil and 1 part peat moss, sand, and perlite.

Water & Sunlight

Provide them light moisture by supplying sufficient amount of water to the plants. It helps to prevent the powdery mildew disease when watered under the plant roots.

Euphorbia plants thrive quickly when the room temperature is between 65-75F. These plants can withstand if the temperature is below 50F in winter season and 90F in the summer season. Seeds germinate slowly and may take 2-3 weeks to month time. These plants do not like disturbing the roots so the best place to grow them pots.

Nutrient Deficiency

S. No	Element	Deficiency symptom
1	Nitrogen	Yellowish green leaves, curled, wrinkled
2	Phosphorus	Light green color leaves and dried petals
3	Potassium	Dark green and erected leaves
4	Magnesium	Yellow leaves, interveinal chlorosis

Pests & Diseases

Pests	Diseases
Mealybugs	Powdery mildew
Spider mites	Root rot
Aphids	Damping off
Thrips	Tobacco mosaic virus
Caterpillars	Leaf yellowing
Nematodes	Fusarium wilt

Pollination

It is the process in which pollens are transferred from stamen to stigma through wind and insects like honey bees, hummingbird, and beetles. Pollination in euphorbias can be achieved by using a brush with fine hair and transferring the ripe pollen.

Pruning

To keep the crown of thorns plants to the ground level, cut back the branches while leaving the auxiliary buds and sprouts. Remove dead leaves and flowers from the surface of the soil. This will help the soil to aerate and prevent from fungal diseases.

Fertilizers

Thorn plants remain healthy even though you do not fertilize the plant occasionally. Watering too much helps to dissipate chlorine from the soil. So as to improve the soil fertility and flower blooming use a balanced fertilizer N-P-K in the ratio for 10-10-10. If you don't find an NPK fertilizer then you can use organic compost, manure and baking soda for better growth of euphorbias. Apply the fertilizers once in a week during the growing season around the base of the plant, where weather begins to cool and days become shorter.

Harvesting

During the 1st growing season euphorbias will not bloom flowers. They start blooming flowers from the 2nd season and some other varieties may take years. To harvest the fragrant flowers, the plant should mature completely and reach to a height of 2-3 feet tall.

Now harvest the euphorbia flowers early in the morning or evening using a sharp knife or scissors or simply pluck flowers using hands. Wear gloves so as to protect yourself from allergies.