

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Euphorbia enopla: red spines on a small spurge

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AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 5.5 cm pot · approx. 8–10 cm overall height. Decoration is not included; this is not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Euphorbia enopla

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Botanical identification	Euphorbia enopla
Family	Euphorbiaceae
Origin	South Africa, Cape region
Delivery size	5.5 cm pot · approx. 8–10 cm overall height
Growth and distinctive feature	Branching succulent spurge with upright ribbed green stems and reddish spines

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Bright to sunny after gradual acclimatisation.	An overly dark position encourages weak stretched growth.
Water	Water only after complete drying.	Succulent stems bridge dry pauses.
Compost	Very freely draining and loosened with mineral ingredients.	Roots should receive air again after watering.
Temperature	Grow in warmth and keep reliably frost-free.	The shop states 18–28 °C as a favourable warm range.
Feed	During growth, weak doses every 4–6 weeks according to the product.	No further supply during winter rest.
Milky sap	Avoid contact with skin and eyes; use protective equipment for work.	Injured stems can release irritating sap.
Position	Stable and inaccessible to children and pets.	Spines and sap require a suitable position.
Checks	Check the base and branches for wetness damage or mealybugs.	Examine soft tissue first rather than watering more.

Knowledge that grows

A cactus appearance from a different plant family

With green ribs and red spines, *Euphorbia enopla* looks like a small cactus at first glance. Botanically, however, it belongs to the spurge family. Its succulent stems store water and branch over time. Younger reddish spines in particular contrast with the green. Age, light and development can change their colour. A spine becoming darker later is therefore not automatically damaged. Correct identification helps especially with handling: spurge sap requires particular caution.

A small specimen needs a safe place

The shop offer states a 5.5 cm pot and around 8 to 10 cm overall height. The offered plant is small and may show different branching patterns. Choose a stable spot that is not accidentally touched while cleaning or opening a drawer. For spiny miniatures, this matters more than a spectacular position right at a table edge. Children and pets should not reach the plant. A tight outer pot must not trap the nursery pot so firmly that it can only be removed for watering by pulling on the shoots.

Combine brightness and warmth sensibly

A bright to sunny position suits this South African succulent. Gradually accustom it to stronger direct sun, especially after shipping or a darker phase. The shop states 18 to 28 °C as a favourable warm range. Lack of light often shows in weaker stretched new growth; extra feed does not fix this. A sheltered summer stay outdoors is possible if rain and cold nights are avoided. For winter, keep the plant reliably frost-free and bright. Do not treat it like a hardy garden spurge.

Dry pauses instead of constant moisture

Water only once the compost has dried completely. Then supply the root area and allow surplus water to drain. A pot with an unobstructed outlet and a freely draining mix loosened with mineral ingredients make this cultivation reliable. In a small container, drying time varies strongly with warmth and sunshine. Check pot weight rather than assuming daily thirst from small size. Demand falls considerably in a dim winter. With a soft plant base, check the root ball and roots first; indiscriminate extra watering may worsen existing damage.

Avoid sap contact wherever possible

Pruning is normally unnecessary for the young plant's shape. If an injured stem is removed later, work with clean tools, gloves and suitable eye protection. Do not check the cut surface with fingers. Escaping sap must not reach eyes, skin, food or utensils used for eating. Handle dried plant remains carefully too. When repotting, stabilise the body with a suitable gentle aid and do not grasp between the spines. Preparing the job beforehand is better than reflexively catching a falling plant with a bare hand.

Allow slow growth and check selectively

During growth, give weak feed according to the instructions about every four to six weeks; stop during winter rest. Repot only when needed into a moderately larger container. Inspect stem bases for mealybugs and the base for soft dark patches. Assess individual colour changes on older spines separately. An evenly firm plant with healthy new growth does not need constant intervention. Propagation by stem sections is possible in principle, but involves sap contact and belongs in experienced hands. Beginners should focus on safe care of the existing plant.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop photograph: red-spined columnar spurge. 5.5 cm pot · approx. 8–10 cm overall height. Natural variations are possible.



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Good to know

Is *Euphorbia enopla* a true cactus?

No. It is a succulent spurge. Similar growth does not make its irritating milky sap harmless.

Can I simply break a shoot off with my fingers?

No. Injuries may release milky sap. Avoid unnecessary cuts and use suitable protection for necessary work.

Why do older red spines become darker?

Colour may change with age and cultivation. Soft shoots or rapidly appearing patches require separate checks.

Is it suitable for an accessible children's corner?

Because of spines and irritating sap, keep it out of reach of children and pets.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

The linked shop is in German. Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in that shop.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in
German)