

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Fern-leaf cactus: large green arches for a hanging planter

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 14 cm hanging pot · delivery length not definitively stated; 60–80 cm stated as growth length. Decoration not included. 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

Epiphyllum chrysocardium (syn. Selenicereus chrysocardium)

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Botanical classification	Epiphyllum chrysocardium (syn. Selenicereus chrysocardium)
Family	Cactaceae
Origin	Mexico, especially Chiapas and Tabasco according to Kew
Delivery size	14 cm hanging pot · delivery length not definitively stated; 60–80 cm stated as growth length
Growth and special feature	Epiphytic leaf cactus with long flat deeply lobed green stems

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 with protection from hot direct sun.	Large green stems may burn with an abrupt sun change.
Water	Moderately moist during growth, with the top drying slightly.	The forest cactus cannot tolerate permanent desert treatment.
Drainage	Allow to drain completely after watering.	Closed hanging pots may accumulate water unnoticed.
Compost	Humus-rich, loose and with coarse structure-forming components.	Epiphytic roots require plenty of air.
Fertiliser	Moderately during active growth following the label.	An overfed root ball burdens sensitive roots.
Winter	Bright and frost-free; cooler around 12–15 °C is possible.	Water less often with lower consumption but do not desiccate permanently.
Space	Allow long stems to hang freely and fasten securely.	Rubbing and bending leave lasting damage.
Inspection	Check bases for scale and mealybugs.	Pests favour protected areas.

Knowledge that grows

A cactus with the impression of a fern frond

The long flat green organs are stems, not true fern leaves. Deep cuts divide them into broad side lobes along a continuous central axis. Kew lists the species as *Epiphyllum chrysocardium*; other specialist and trade sources use *Selenicereus chrysocardium*. Both names therefore appear in this portrait. The fern-like leaf cactus is not simply another spelling of the zigzag cactus. The combined shop description with *anguliger* is not adopted as a separate botanical species name.

The hanging pot needs space sideways and below

The shop states a 14 cm hanging pot. The given 60 to 80 cm is treated as growth length, not guaranteed length of every delivery. The scene follows the proportions of the original plant. Long stems should spread freely without rubbing doors, sharp shelf edges or hot radiators. Secure hanging is especially important after watering when the pot becomes heavier. Holder, cover pot and furnishings are not automatically part of the offer.

Forest cactus means light with protection

In its Mexican home, the plant may grow epiphytically on other plants. It uses them for support and is not a parasite. For cultivation, this principally suggests airy roots and a sheltered bright position. Hot unrestricted midday sun may damage the large green stems. A dark place deep in a room instead often supplies too little light. Even warmth during growth and protection from cold draughts ease acclimatisation.

Give water without enclosing roots

Keep compost moderately moist during growth and let the upper layer dry slightly between waterings. Then supply thoroughly and drain excess. A permanently filled closed hanging pot may be as problematic as completely dry soil for weeks. Its large green stem apparatus does not make this cactus a plant for forced desert rest. With limp shoots, first examine the root ball: both dryness and wet damaged roots may interrupt water supply.

Airy compost and a quiet winter phase

A structurally stable humus-rich mix with coarse air-conducting components suits better than heavy compacted soil. Repot moderately when root room requires it. Feed sparingly during active growth following the label. A bright cooler winter position around 12 to 15 °C may support a quieter phase; stay frost-free and clearly adapt watering to lower consumption. The root ball should not permanently desiccate completely. Consumption and growth rhythm may differ in warm rooms.

Flowers may be expected but not assumed

Older well-developed plants may form large pale flowers. A specific flower size, date or flowering on the young delivery is not guaranteed. Healthy stem sections may root as cuttings in suitable conditions after the cut surface dries. The plant need not constantly be shortened for compact shape. Check bases and protected areas for scale and mealybugs. Treat damaged stems cleanly; existing firm scars do not disappear with more watering or fertiliser.

Pictures and details

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



Original shop image: fern-leaf cactus. 14 cm hanging pot · delivery length not definitively stated; 60–80 cm stated as growth length. Natural variations are possible.



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Good to know

Are those fern leaves?

No. The flat deeply lobed green parts are cactus stems.

Which botanical name is correct?

Kew uses *Epiphyllum chrysocardium*; other sources, including the RHS, list *Selenicereus chrysocardium*. Both names refer here to the same offered species.

Is delivery 80 cm long?

No definite delivery length is stated. The 60 to 80 cm is described as growth length.

Must it stay dry for months like a desert cactus?

No. This leaf cactus needs water supply adapted to light and temperature and must not permanently desiccate.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Check the shop for the price, current availability and what is included.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer