

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Ferocactus stainesii: a small globe with strong spines

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AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 12 cm pot · approximately 15–17 cm total 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

Ferocactus pilosus (syn. F. stainesii)

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Botanical classification	Ferocactus pilosus (syn. F. stainesii)
Family	Cactaceae
Origin	Mexico
Delivery size	12 cm pot · approximately 15–17 cm total height
Growth and distinctive feature	Ribbed cactus, globular when young, with strong red spines and finer pale bristles, becoming barrel-shaped with age

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	Sunny after careful acclimatisation.	Insufficient light can stretch the body unnaturally.
Watering	During growth, water thoroughly after the root ball dries.	A clear alternation supports healthy roots.
Drainage	Remove all excess water.	A wet stem base is at risk of rot.
Compost	Structurally stable, free-draining cactus compost.	Compacted wet compost is unsuitable.
Winter	Bright and frost-free; largely dry.	Resting growth requires little water.
Fertiliser	Sparingly during growth, following the label.	Overfeeding cannot accelerate healthy development without limit.
Handling	Use suitable protection against spines.	Strong spines penetrate thin materials.
Pruning	No routine shaping.	The intact growing point continues natural growth.

Knowledge that grows

A small globe with plenty of structure

The young cactus has distinct ribs and a dense pattern of red spines and finer pale bristles. The offer lists a 12 cm pot with approximately 15–17 cm total height. The plant body is correspondingly small and sits low above the container. A metre-high specimen from a Mexican nature photograph would not be an appropriate delivery illustration. The shade of red can also vary with the age of the spines and the individual specimen.

Two botanical names for the same context

The shop uses *Ferocactus stainesii*. Kew lists this name as a synonym of *Ferocactus pilosus*. Both search terms therefore remain findable in the portrait. The species belongs to the cactus family and comes from Mexico. Young plants are globular; older ones can develop barrel-shaped bodies. The ribs allow volume changes as water reserves vary. Spines are permanent plant parts, not decoration that should be removed to make handling easier.

Sunlight makes the structure strong

A sunny position is important, but the change must be gradual. After dark transport or winter cultivation, do not place it immediately in the hottest midday sun. Too little light can cause undesirable stretching of new growth. A bright, sunny conservatory or suitable windowsill works better than a dark shelf. In a warm summer, an outdoor position protected from rain is possible. The pot must stand securely there and remain protected from prolonged rain.

Water thoroughly and let it dry again

During active growth, water after the root ball has dried completely. Then allow all excess water to drain away. Do not regularly wet only the surface. Free-draining, mineral-based cactus compost and a drainage hole make the alternation between water supply and dry intervals easier. A small pot may dry faster in warmth but remain surprisingly moist in cool weather. Check its condition and weight. Persistent moisture at the stem base is unsuitable.

Repot without pressure on the body or spines

When the root ball is densely rooted or the compost exhausted, repot carefully. Use appropriate protection and aids; thin household gloves do not reliably stop strong spines. Do not grip the cactus by the crown or squeeze it forcefully. Provide only a little more root space. Feed sparingly according to the label during growth. Shaping is not normal care for a healthy globular cactus. Seed is the typical means of propagation; do not pre-emptively divide the plant body for this purpose.

Plan for a quiet winter rest

Overwinter in bright, cool and reliably frost-free conditions, keeping it largely dry. In a warm living room, observe and adapt cultivation to the light and the leafless stem; do not force growth by generous winter watering. Slight shrinkage can occur during rest. Soft, dark patches or an unstable stem base are warning signs instead. Watch for mealybugs between areoles and distinguish them from the natural pale bristles. Flowers require suitable cultivation and sufficiently developed plants; they are not promised for this small delivery size.

Pictures and details

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



Original shop photograph: red-spined *Ferocactus stainesii*. 12 cm pot · approximately 15–17 cm total height. Natural variations are possible.

Good to know

Why does the portrait also mention *Ferocactus pilosus*?

Kew lists *stainesii* as a synonym of this name. This keeps the shop offer understandable botanically and through search.

Will it always remain globular?

Young plants are globular, while older ones may become barrel-shaped. This takes considerably longer than one season.

Must I remove the white bristles?

No. They are part of its natural appearance.

Is it delivered with flowers?

Flowers are not promised for this offer. The spines and ribs are already its main ornament.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in the shop offer.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer