

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Koi cactus: orange and green on a small ribbed globe

Orange and red between dark-green ribs draw the eye. Koi is a compact variegated trade form with its own pattern. Sheltered brightness and an airy rootball guide cultivation through the year.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photograph. One small plant in an 8.5 cm pot at approximately 12 cm total height; saucer, setting and decoration are examples. Colour distribution may differ.

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

Gymnocalycium mihanovichii, variegated Koi trade form

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Botanical name	Gymnocalycium mihanovichii, variegated Koi trade form
Delivery size	8.5 cm pot · approx. 12 cm total height
Family	Cactaceae
Form	Horticultural variegated Koi trade form, not a new botanical species
Body	Low small globe with notched ribs and fine short spines
Colour	Dark-green and orange-red sectors; distribution and shades vary
Green tissue	Chlorophyll-containing areas among the coloured parts
Growth	Slow and compact; delivery height includes pot and is not a final size
Flowers	Possible later; coloured ribs are not flowers
Annual rhythm	Growth in brighter months and markedly lower winter requirements

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
Position	Provide bright filtered light; introduce direct sun gradually.	An abrupt move behind hot glass can damage variegated surfaces.
Watering	During growth thoroughly water the rootball after good drying, then let it drain.	The body stores water; the small active rootball still occasionally needs a reliable supply.
Drainage	Remove excess and keep every drainage hole clear.	Water left beneath the pot keeps roots wet unnecessarily.
Soil	Choose gritty, draining cactus compost.	Air and drying matter more than decorative surface grit.
Winter	Bright frost-free, rather cool position; very little water while resting.	With less light and growth, cold and wet rootballs combine poorly.
Feeding	Only during active growth, sparingly by cactus fertiliser label.	Nutrition supports growth without arbitrarily controlling variegation.
Repotting	In spring when cramped, choose a pot only slightly larger.	A large volume of unrooted soil stays moist for a long time.
Handling	Hold the pot; a paper strip helps when repotting.	Avoid pressure on spines and areoles.
Checks	Inspect ribs, areoles and base regularly; check rootball before watering.	Mealybugs or soft patches call for observation, not automatic watering.

Knowledge that grows

A small globe with lively colour

Dark green meets orange and red across the low Koi body. Transitions form no regular pattern; fine spines, small pale areoles and notched ribs add depth. Turning the pot reveals another view. A quiet small bright position gives this structure a background without crowding it with colourful neighbours. Even at a handy size, skin and spines are not handles.

What Koi means

Koi is a trade name for cultivated variegated forms around *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, recalling ornamental carp. Coloured tissue belongs to the body: it is neither flowers nor added decoration. Distribution can vary by plant and year; green areas supply chlorophyll-containing tissue. The offer shows a low body directly above soil without a visible tall grafting stem. A fully coloured head on a separate green rootstock has a different structure. Here the globe and its own rootball are considered together.

Unpacking a small cactus

The offer is one plant in an eight-and-a-half-centimetre pot with about twelve centimetres total height including pot, not a large table cactus. Hold the nursery pot during unpacking and keep fingers away from spines. Check drainage holes, moisture and the small rootball in good light. A large immediate repot is usually unnecessary. Keep soil accessible and empty the saucer after watering. Delivery markings need not match the photograph exactly.

Light without an abrupt change

Bright filtered daylight or gentle morning sun is a useful starting point. After transport shield the coloured body from the hottest sun behind glass, then acclimatise gradually. Dark green should not be turned red by maximum sun; variegation is not a contest in intensity. A permanently shady shelf instead gives too little light for healthy compact growth. A sheltered outdoor position is possible in warm months, with renewed light acclimatisation, protection from prolonged rain and a return when nights turn cool.

Watering the rootball at the right time

During visible growth supply the rootball after it has dried well. Lifting the pot and checking below decorative grit is more useful than a fixed week. Water the rootball and let all excess escape. Small daily sips keep the surface moist and obscure root conditions. A short dry spell does not mean forgetting an actively growing plant for months. If the body softens, first check soil, temperature and base: softness does not always mean thirst, and wet roots do not call for more water.

Airy soil rather than an oversized pot

Gritty airy soil and free holes form the foundation. When cramped, gently repot in spring with just a little extra room rather than a large wet unrooted volume. A folded paper strip helps without pressing spines; retain the body's depth. Surface grit cannot replace drainage below. Feed sparingly during growth by label, accounting for pre-fertilised soil. More fertiliser cannot choose brighter colours. No shaping cut is needed: healthy ribs are not removed for symmetry.

A quieter winter

Consumption falls in dimmer months. Offer a bright frost-free, rather cool position around ten degrees or warmer and strongly reduce watering during rest. Warm heating and low light combine poorly. Keep soil mainly dry and watch shrinkage, checking the whole plant before a small supply. Increase water and light gradually in spring. Later flowers are possible on an older plant, but coloured ribs remain appealing without them. Watch areoles and pot rim for cottony pests; new spots, a soft base or rapid change call for checking roots and position.

Pictures and details

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



AI-created enlarged detail of the young ribbed plant; not a larger delivery size or fixed colour distribution.



One plant in 8.5 cm pot · approx. 12 cm total height. Additional individuals in the circle illustrate colours, not extra plants in a set.

Good to know

What size is offered?

One plant in 8.5 cm pot, approx. 12 cm total height including pot.

Is the orange a flower?

No. It is variegation in the cactus body.

Is it built like a grafted strawberry cactus?

The picture here shows a small green and coloured globe directly above soil; a coloured head on a separate green stem has a different structure.

Does the pattern stay identical?

No. Distribution and shades vary with individual and year.

Should I water monthly?

Examine rootball and pot weight: after drying during growth, far less during rest.

Can it go straight into midday sun?

Start with filtered light after transport and increase gradually; beware hot glass.

How should it overwinter?

Bright frost-free, rather cool, around 10 °C or warmer; soil mainly dry during rest and body observed.

What if the base is soft?

Check moisture, drainage and temperature. A soft base in wet soil does not need extra water.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop ↗](#)

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[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer