

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Madagascar palm: a storage trunk beneath a green leaf crown

Pachypodium lamerei combines a strong spiny trunk with narrow green leaves. This supposed palm is a succulent whose water needs change markedly with growth and rest.



AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: about 25–30 cm overall height; pot size not finally confirmed. 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.

Issue September 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Pachypodium lamerei

Madagascar palm: a storage trunk beneath a green leaf crown

Pachypodium lamerei combines a strong spiny trunk with narrow green leaves. This supposed palm is a succulent whose water needs change markedly with growth and rest.



AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: about 25–30 cm overall height; pot size not finally confirmed. Decoration not included; not a product photograph to scale.

Botanical classification	Pachypodium lamerei
Family	Apocynaceae
Origin	Madagascar
Delivery size	About 25–30 cm overall height · clarify pot size in the shop
Growth and special feature	Succulent spiny storage trunk with a narrow leaf crown; later shrubby to tree-like growth

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	Very bright; build sun gradually.	The leaf crown needs light for strong shoots.
Water	Water during leafy growth after good drying.	The storage trunk bridges dry intervals.
Rest	Keep very dry during rest and leaf loss.	A resting plant consumes substantially less water.
Temperature	Overwinter bright and warm, safely frost-free.	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i> is not a winter-hardy palm.
Compost	Well-drained succulent mix and drainage.	Persistent wetness threatens the trunk base.
Fertiliser	Sparingly during active growth following product instructions.	Pause during rest.
Pruning	Preserve the healthy young trunk tip.	Avoid unnecessary large wounds.
Handling	Mind spines and choose a safe position.	Moving and repotting pose an injury risk.

Knowledge that grows

A succulent with a palm-like silhouette

A thickened grey trunk and the leaf crown at its tip give *Pachypodium lamerei* its name Madagascar palm. Botanically, the species belongs to the dogbane family, not palms. The trunk carries strong spines and stores water. Narrow green leaves sit mainly at the top. Over years the plant may become substantially larger. A young plant is therefore a long-term companion whose space needs grow too. Its Madagascar origin explains the need for bright warm frost-free cultivation.

Delivery size needs a close look

The shop description states about 25 to 30 cm overall height. Title and description contradict each other on pot size, stating 12 and 9 cm respectively. Clarify this figure in the shop before ordering. Original photographs show several plants in stock and a trunk detail; this does not constitute a plant set. A small stable position is initially enough for the individual young Madagascar palm. Place it so nobody must brush past spines and enough movement space remains for watering.

Brightness and warmth as the foundation

Choose a very bright position with as much light as possible. Acclimatise slowly to direct sun rather than immediately switching to hot midday sun after transport. A warm sheltered summer position outdoors is possible if cold nights or prolonged wetness do not threaten. The RHS classes the species as a warmth-demanding greenhouse plant. A bright warm room is the safe starting point for winter cultivation. An unheated near-freezing garage is as unsuitable as a dark storeroom.

Supply growth and rest differently

While the plant is actively growing with foliage, water moderately after the root ball dries well. Surplus must drain. In winter or clear rest, demand falls substantially; a leafless resting plant should stay very dry. Actual development matters, not a fixed date. If leaves fall, first assess light, temperature and moisture. More water is not automatically the solution. Black leaf tips alone do not prove a particular cause either; persistent wetness, cold and other stresses must be considered together.

A stable pot with well-drained soil

Use a well-drained succulent mix and a container with drainage. A decorative heavy cover may help prevent tipping but must not collect water. During active growth, feed sparingly with suitable fertiliser following product instructions. Pause at rest. Repot only when roots, stability or compost require it. Protect hands and forearms from spines and do not squeeze the trunk with bare hands. The new container must suit root mass; an oversized wet soil reserve is no growth advantage.

Do not hastily prune the trunk tip

Healthy upright structure normally needs no pruning. Removing a young plant's tip purely for shaping creates a large injury and is not necessary for better growth. Instead, regularly check the base for soft areas and young leaves for pests. A firm trunk base and new growth during the growing phase are good observation points. Flowers are possible on older specimens in suitable conditions, but are not guaranteed on this young plant. Plant parts are not eaten or used as home remedies.

Pictures and details

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



Original shop photographs of Madagascar palm: stock view of several plants and trunk detail. The offer is not a plant set. Overall height according to description about 25–30 cm; pot size contradictory (title 12 cm, description 9 cm).



Original shop photographs of Madagascar palm: stock view of several plants and trunk detail. The offer is not a plant set. Overall height according to description about 25–30 cm; pot size contradictory (title 12 cm, description 9 cm).

Good to know

Is Madagascar palm a true palm?

No. *Pachypodium lamerei* belongs to the dogbane family and grows as a succulent.

What pot size will be delivered?

The shop states 12 cm in the title and 9 cm in the description. Clarify the size before ordering; about 25 to 30 cm overall height is stated in the description.

Does winter leaf fall immediately mean a care mistake?

Leaf loss may belong to rest. Also check light, temperature and root ball; do not drive a resting plant with extra watering.

Should I cut off the trunk top for more branching?

That is not a necessary care step for a healthy young plant. Preserve the natural tip initially.

The matching offer

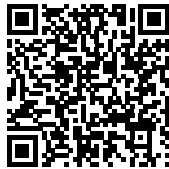
[View plant in the shop](#)

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

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer