

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Cobra cactus: a net-like pattern on small strong shoots

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AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 6.5 cm pot · approx. 10–12 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

Opuntia (Handelsname reticulata 'Cobra')

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Botanical identification	Opuntia (trade name reticulata 'Cobra')
Family	Cactaceae
Origin	Horticultural Opuntia form; no certain independent wild origin for the trade name
Delivery size	6.5 cm pot · approx. 10–12 cm overall height
Growth and distinctive feature	Compact cactus with irregularly oval to elongated stem segments and a net-patterned surface

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 to sunny after slow acclimatisation.	Sudden strong sun can burn cacti too.
Water	Water only after the root ball dries well.	Strong stem segments store water.
Drainage	Remove all excess.	Avoid constant moisture at shoot bases.
Compost	Freely draining cactus mix with mineral structure.	Compacted wet compost provides too little air to roots.
Feed	Sparingly during growth according to the product.	Pause during rest.
Winter	Bright and frost-free, considerably drier.	Hardiness is not established for the offer.
Handling	Use suitable aids to protect against glochids.	The almost smooth surface may still irritate.
Checks	Distinguish net markings from newly appearing soft patches.	The natural pattern does not need removal.

Knowledge that grows

A net on green cactus segments

The striking pattern covers strong green stem segments. Pale lines and irregular areas recall snakeskin and explain the trade name Cobra. This is a horticultural form sold as *Opuntia reticulata* Cobra and also as *Opuntia zebrina* f. *reticulata*. A certain independent wild species cannot be inferred from that. The pattern is not a spider web to wash off. Shoots may have different shapes and branching. This individual development is precisely what makes the small cactus interesting.

Look closely at the miniature format

The shop describes a 6.5 cm pot and around 10 to 12 cm overall height. Such a specimen suits a small sunny position but is not a mature cactus tree. The scene respects its compact size. New segments need not appear symmetrically on both sides. Ensure a stable position where nobody accidentally brushes a hand over it. Small spines and fine glochids are possible despite the relatively smooth impression. Decoration and outer pot belong to the plant offer only if expressly stated.

Make sun a gradual routine

A very bright to sunny position supports strong shoots. After shipping or prolonged shade cultivation, gradually accustom the cactus to direct sun. A sudden move behind a hot south-facing pane can damage even sun-loving plants. In summer, a warm well-ventilated outdoor position is possible if protected from persistent rain. Bring inside before cold nights. The trade name says nothing about reliable winter hardiness. For this small offered pot plant, bright frost-free overwintering is the appropriate cautious foundation.

Allow dry phases throughout the root ball

During active growth, water only once the compost has dried well. Then supply the root ball and let excess drain. The next application follows need, not automatically a week later. In a small pot, a loose mix dries differently from heavy compacted compost. Check container weight too. Water remaining in an outer pot cancels out the advantages of a freely draining mix. In winter, during cooler bright rest, give much less water. Cold damp roots and permanently wet shoot bases are particularly unsuitable.

Mineral structure and careful handling

A freely draining cactus mix with suitable mineral ingredients such as pumice provides roots with support and air. The pot needs drainage holes. Repot when needed into a container only slightly larger. Work with suitable aids that protect against glochids and do not squeeze stem segments tightly. Fine bristles may remain caught in materials and skin. During active growth, modest suitable cactus feed according to product instructions is sufficient; pause during rest. Do not polish, brush or coat the distinctive surface with leaf-shine products.

New segments, possible flowers and changes

Strong plants may form further segments. These initially grow soft and should not be moved unnecessarily. Later flowering is possible but not guaranteed for the young offer. Healthy detached segments may be used for vegetative propagation after cut surfaces dry sufficiently; the small starting cactus need not be dismantled immediately for this. With thin stretched new growth, check insufficient light. Suddenly soft dark areas may instead indicate wetness problems. Natural net-like markings alone do not justify treatment. Check regularly for mealybugs and changes at stem bases.

Pictures and details

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



Original shop photograph: Cobra cactus. 6.5 cm pot · approx. 10–12 cm overall height. Natural variations are possible.



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Good to know

Is the pale net pattern a disease?

The net-like pattern belongs to the Cobra form's appearance. Newly appearing soft dark areas need checking instead.

Can I simply touch the cactus?

Not unprotected. Small spines and fine glochids may irritate skin even when the surface looks relatively smooth.

Is it hardy like some garden opuntias?

This is not established for the offer. Overwinter the small pot cactus brightly and frost-free.

How large is the offered specimen?

Around 10 to 12 cm overall height in a 6.5 cm pot. Segment shape and number may naturally vary.

The matching offer

[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