

A FORGET-ABOUT CROP THAT PAYS

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Growers will do well to prepare for the increasing interest in easy-care house plants and the particular fascination of cacti.

Choose a corner in the greenhouse which gets full sunlight. Start the cacti from seeds using a medium of equal parts of soil, peat and sand. Sow the seeds thinly in rows. Do not cover. Keep them moist until germination occurs. This may take from four to six weeks and germination may be irregular.

After four to eight weeks, the young plants may be transplanted into 1 1/2-2 1/4" pots. They will thrive in dry sandy soil such as one part soil, one part peat, and two parts sand. This formula allows just enough peat to provide root anchorage and still maintain a quick-draining, fast-drying soil.

From this point on, the cactus crop can remain happily neglected and provide steady income. Among the other excellent qualities of a cactus crop is relatively slow growth. This crop will not quickly lose its sales appeal but will gradually increase in value.