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Trichocereus Care

San Pedro (*Trichocereus Pachanoi*) and San Pedro Macho (*Trichocereus peruvianus*) are fast growing, fairly hardy cacti. They tolerate lots of water during the growing season if planted in a well-drained soil, and stand frost down to 10 - 20°F. Your cuttings should be planted 2 - 3" deep in a 4 - 6" pot until well rooted. Ordinary nursery potting mix is fine. Trunk cuttings (those with no tip) have the bottom end marked with an arrow - they will make new branches from both the base and the top once rooted. After potting up, water once, then allow to dry out between waterings until they are well rooted and showing new growth. Once established, give plenty of root room and water, and feed with a balanced fertilizer for fast growth. Don't skip pot sizes and plant a small plant in a large pot - this encourages soggy soil and rot. The aim is to get a good dense root ball. The most common problem is base rot - if this happens to your plant, cut off above the rot, and cut away all signs of decay. Dusting the cut end with powdered charcoal or sulfur helps. Dry the cutting in the shade for 2 weeks, then replant in well-drained soil. Filling the top two inches of the pot with pea gravel can help give support and prevent a soggy base. Keep drier in the cold months in the North. Here in coastal California, our plants take cold rainy winters well (up to 50 - 70" of rain a year), as long as the soil drains well and doesn't get soggy. They like sun, but in full hot sun they may yellow a bit, and some light shade encourages nice, dark green columns - too much shade will cause too-thin growth. I get the best results with lots of compost, blood meal, bone meal and wood ash (even when I once accidentally applied them at twice the maximum recommended rate!). Well-balanced chemical fertilizer with micronutrients works fine too, but can lead to soft growth and increased insect pests.

Once established, they can grow 1 - 3 feet per year. We have 8-foot tall plants in 10" pots, and they sometimes bloom when 4 feet tall. Spectacular!

Enclosed cutting(s) may be planted on arrival.

Enclosed cuttings are fresh, and should be dried in the shade and not planted until _____.