

The Peyote Gardener's Novel



******How do I grow Peyote outdoors in containers?*

Official Notice: Peyote is one of the slowest growing cacti. Let not discouragement be.

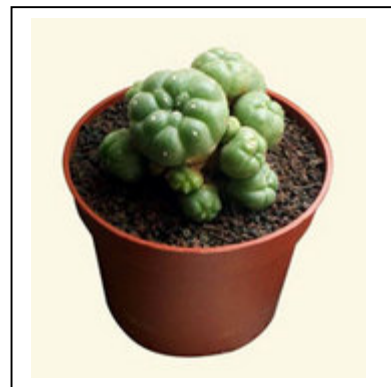
The best time to start with seeds is in the early spring if this is an outdoor project.

Get **cactus** soil from a company similar to Home Depot or Lowes and place some of it in clean, preferably plastic pots. Make the soil really soaking wet. Leave the pots for one day to let the excess of water drip out.

Now put the seeds in. They should be put just under the surface (It is not really necessary that they are covered with soil). Cover the pot with a piece of transparent plastic wrap, which can be fixed under the edge with masking tape. It seems strange to grow cacti in such an extremely humid atmosphere, but it is okay.

Put the pots in a **sunny** place. Keep the pots covered with the plastic. Within two weeks tiny green balls will appear - newly born peyote. After 3-4 weeks you can start making very small holes in the plastic, after a few more days make some more and later make them bigger. Note: There is no need to water the peyote for weeks.

After 8-10 weeks from day one you can remove the plastic. As long as the cacti are small they are quit fragile, so use caution and oversee them with great care. Once the top layer of the soil gets dry you can start watering, but never let them have "wet feet."



Above: Peyote

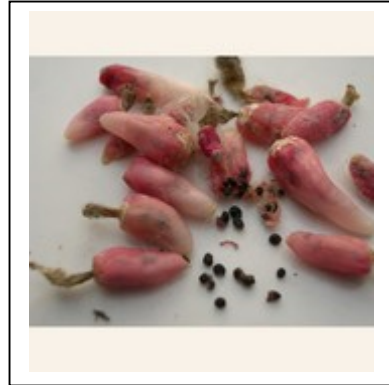
In about the middle of the autumn stop watering them. To get them through the winter you have to keep them dry (most trouble is caused by too much water).

Remember it is a desert plant - it can stay alive for a very, very long time without water. Error on the side of using less water just to be extra cautious.

When the sun gets stronger in spring they can have water again. You might have to even soak the pots for a while, if the first water just runs through the earth without holding it. These plants like it hot. When it gets really hot go ahead and give enough water to keep them a little wet.

You do not necessarily need fertilizer but if you choose to add some down the road, please use **cacti** fertilizer.

After the first year it is better (but not necessary) to transplant them in separate pots - (if anything happens you can medically care for them individually). A small pot (5 cm) will do fine. It is best to do this in spring before you start watering them. Press the soil well around the cacti. Keep the soil a bit below the edge of the pot to make giving water easier. The green part of the plant should be above the surface to prevent rot. Bigger plants should also be kept in not-too-big pots so that they don't stay wet for too long a period.



Above: Flowers and seeds

Additional note: In nature they will start flowering after about 10 years, in culture about 5 years.

Extras: Store bought cactus soil isn't the best for Peyote. It's usually full of peat moss which is acidic. Peyote likes alkaline soil. You can add limestone to make it more alkaline.

For peyote seedlings the following substrate is known to work:

- 1 part washed sand
- 1 part cactus soil
- 1 tablespoon of powdered limestone per gallon

Clay pots are preferable.

The Latin name for Peyote is "Lophophora williamsii"

Each cactus only gets about 1 inch to 3 inches wide.

Be careful not to burn the seedlings with too much sun. If they turn red/brownish, there's too much sun. If they turn yellow, there's not enough.

Peyote Technical Support

If your peyote plants seem shriveled and look thirsty, but have been getting plenty of water-it may be one of two possible problems: 1)The plants may shrivel if the sunlight is too intense. Examine your growing situation to see if that is the problem, and if it is, use a shade cloth to give your plants extra protection. 2)



More often than not the problem is the lighting, but if you love to water and the soil doesn't drain well, the problem may be soil bound fungus, or root rot.

Check the roots of the plant and if there is a whitish substance on the root, your plant has got it. Wash the roots thoroughly and let them dry in a shady, dry place. Let the plants air for several days before replanting in a dry soil mix with pyroclay. Don't

water for at least one week. Instead use a water sprayer or a misting system to water only the surface of the plant. Recovery may take months, during which time you do not want to drench the soil. Light misting is plenty.

Rooting cut buttons, like all of the processes involved in growing Peyote is more a matter of neglect. If you notice your plants looking healthy after a vacation where you have been away, you will know that you have been giving them too much attention! Leave the cut buttons in a dry, shady place. Don't even bother to put them in soil. When the Peyote begins to put out little root shoots, plant them, but continue to be moderate about watering, using only the mister for months.

How is peyote prepared among the White population?

There are a few different ways to prepare Peyote. Herein is the most simple manner, short of eating them raw.

Precautionary notation: Whoever finds himself in want of this cacti - they should be sternly and soberly warned that this is considered a very, very Sacred Plant, specifically among certain Native American tribes. With that said, one should use prudence in determining if it's the "right time."

To make a decoction the following items are needed:

1. Dried Peyote
2. A sauce pan
3. A scale to weigh out how much will be used
4. A filter or strainer to strain out the peyote
5. A little patience

Steps:

1. Clean fuzz out of cut, dried Peyote
2. Weigh out the desired amount of Peyote
3. Blend the Peyote with a coffee grinder until it is in powder form, unless you wish to just cut it up in rather small pieces
4. Place about one quart of spring or distilled water into sauce pan and add the Peyote to the water
5. Bring to a boil, then simmer on low for roughly 20-30 minutes
6. Let the "tea" cool off for awhile before doing anything further
7. Strain the peyote powder/pieces from the water using the strainer
8. Place the water in a separate container for the time being. No cheating. Wait.
9. The saucepan is now empty. Refill it with another quart of water and re-add the same peyote powder/bits.
10. Once again, bring to a boil then simmer for 20-30 minutes
11. Repeat one more time
12. Combine all three decoctions back in the pot and reduce to one cup of liquid without boiling the water
13. Make sure it's the right time, friend. No need to get ahead of things if uncertainty is present.