

## MAMMILARIA CACTUS

A common type of cactus which is very easy to grow. It has one central bulbous growth which can reach several centimetres in diameter. It produces many small bulbils which grow off the surface randomly. These in turn will grow and eventually overwhelm the parent thus killing it. Over time it will expand into a large 'bubbly' mass of round balls which can be broken off (Use kitchen tongs to handle) and replanted in a sandy well drained soil. Simply place the ball on top of the sandy mix.

Do not water for two days so that a 'scab' may form on the base. The most common cause of cactus plants dying is not too much water, but consistently WET FEET!!

Unfortunately the extremely beautiful flowers, which are carried on a thick fleshy stem, only last for one night then die as soon as the sun touches them. They rely on the night flying moths for pollination.

As seen in the photo, quite large clumps may have two or three flowers at once – One per ball of cactus. Therefore, the larger the clump, the larger the number of flowers.

They also come in Reds, Pinks and White.

I find them an excellent plant for that odd cement building block as seen in the picture.

John Cole