

COCTACEAE



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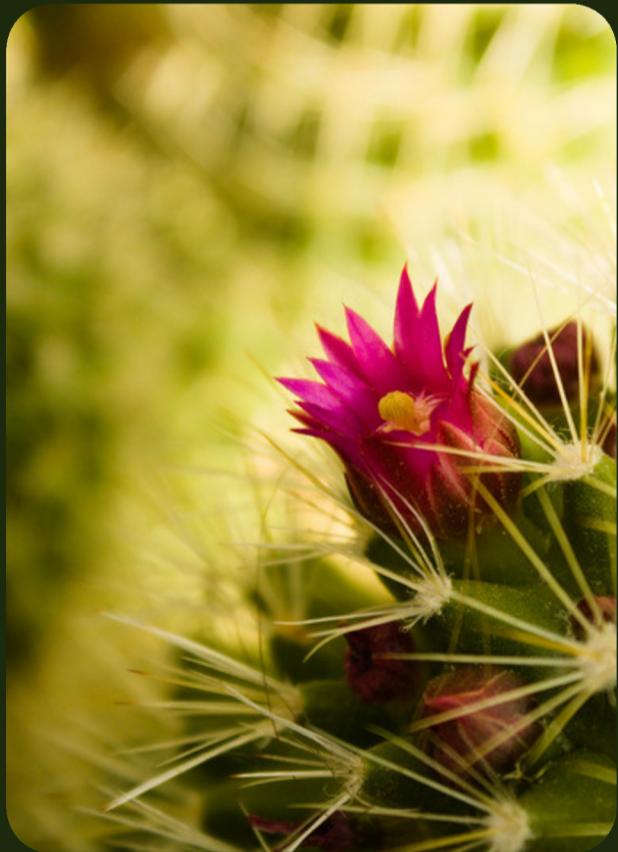
Cactaceae, commonly known as the cactus family, consists of succulent plants that have developed the ability to store water in their stems, with their leaves transformed into spines. Instead of leaves, they carry out photosynthesis through their green stems. With thousands of different species, cacti are among the most extraordinary plants in nature, displaying remarkable forms and geometric symmetries.



Nearly all cactus species are native to North and South America. They are distributed across a vast area stretching from Canada to Patagonia, with the greatest concentration found in the deserts of Mexico and the southwestern United States. The only genus naturally occurring outside the Americas is Rhipsalis, which is native to Africa. Today, cacti play a leading role worldwide in drought-tolerant landscaping and interior decoration.

Cultivation and Uses

Cacti require abundant sunlight and perfectly well-drained soil. Because they receive very little rainfall in their natural habitats, overwatering can quickly cause their roots to rot. During their active growth period in spring and summer, they should be watered in a controlled manner, while in winter, watering should be almost completely stopped to allow them to enter their dormant phase.



In landscaping, they are especially used in xeriscape (drought-tolerant) designs. They are ideal for creating rock gardens that require virtually no maintenance. Many species produce large, brightly colored flowers, offering a striking visual display. Their spines also allow them to function as natural barriers. In addition, due to their perceived ability to absorb radiation and help purify the air, they are frequently preferred in homes and offices as well.