

Wax Plant

Hoya carnosa
Asclepiadaceae



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Hoya carnosa is an easy-to-grow, succulent, twining and climbing vine. This species is native to the area ranging from southern China to Australia. It is an old-fashioned houseplant that can be used in a hanging basket, but more commonly trained on an upright support. *H. carnosa* is most prized for its intensely sweet-smelling flowers, but the leaves are also attractive in many cultivars.

Foliage is fleshy, opposite, and oblong to ovate. Leaves are 3 inches, waxy, and translucent. Flowers are white petaled and red in the center, and borne in clusters of around twenty on leafless spurs extending out of the main stems. *H. carnosa* will bloom sometime between May and September, but not until mature (stems are 3 to 6 feet long). Flowers appear to be made of velvet, are very fragrant, and are moist with nectar, giving the alternate name "Honey Plant".

H. carnosa prefers bright light with some direct sun. Water it well in summer, less in winter. Wax plants grow best when night temperatures are near 65 degrees; 55 degrees in winter. Leaves may be misted to increase humidity, but do not mist when in bloom.

Do not cut off the flower spur after flowering as reblooming occurs on the same spur. Spent flowers may be removed as long as the spur is unharmed. Failure to bloom may be due to caused by overwatering, over fertilization, insufficient sunlight, or plant immaturity. Do not disturb the plant once buds appear, and do not repot until necessary.

Propagate by stem or leaf bud cuttings in spring, or air layering. Do not put rooting cuttings in bright light.

Related species:

<i>H. carnosa</i> 'Krinkle Kurl'	Green Curls, Hindu Rope
<i>H. carnosa variegata</i>	(cream edged leaves)
<i>H. carnosa exotica</i>	(yellow centered leaves)
<i>Hoya bella</i>	Miniature Wax Plant

