

Hoya Krimson Princess



Scientific name: *Hoya carnosa* 'Krimson Princess'

Common name: Waxflower, waxplant, waxvine

Origin: South East Asia

Hoyas grow wild across Australia, New Guinea, Polynesia, and the Philippines, and are native to Indonesia, China, India, Thailand, and several other south East Asian countries.

There are hundreds of species of Hoya. This is the variegated version of the Hoya Carnosa. It has waxy and thick leaves that resemble succulents. It is an epiphyte in the wild, and has a climbing habit.

This houseplant is sought-after for its bright pink stems, as well as the cream and pink variegation in the center of the leaves! It grows long vines, so you can let your Princess trail down from a hanging basket.

Light is the one of the most critical factors for your Hoya Krimson Princess. Lots of bright indirect light (at least 6 hours per day) plus a few hours of direct light is perfect. But don't go overboard, as your plant will pale and scorch if the light is too harsh.

This plant is notoriously fussy about having wet roots. To protect your plant from this issue, ensure you have a good-quality free-draining soil. I use succulent soil mixed with perlite and orchid bark to aerate the soil and allow lots of space for water (and roots) to make their own path. Water your plant when the top soil is dry. Keep in mind that wrinkled leaves, especially on leaves closest to the soil, signify that your plant is underwatered. At the same time, soft, yellow and wilting leaves typically mean your plant is overwatered.

Hoya Krimson Princess loves a humid environment. Between 70-80% humidity is ideal, encouraging vigorous growth. Ideally, keep your Hoya Krimson Princess between 61-95 degrees F (16-35 degrees C).

You will need to wait around 3-4 years for your plant to mature before it starts to bloom. Umbels of up to 30 small star-shaped, pink flowers with red centers bloom from peduncles (spurs). The nocturnal flowers produce a sticky nectar and a sweet scent that many indoor gardeners describe as vanilla custard, honey, or chocolate.

Hoya Krimson Princess is a slow grower. Indoors, it can grow up to 60 – 80 inches (1.5 – 2 meters). Though this is a far cry from the wild, it can grow to a length of 20 feet (6 meters)!

The usual pests that are especially attracted to the Princess are the sap-sucking variety, such as mealybugs, spider mites and scale.

The Hoya Krimson Princess is not toxic to pets and humans. Like all members of the Milkweed family, it does have a milky sap that may be irritating for sensitive skin.

Sources

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