

Living Stone Plant

Species: species vary
Genus: *Lithops*
Family: Mesembryanthemaceae
Order: Caryophyllidae
Class: Dicotyledonae
Phylum: Magnoliophyta
Kingdom: Plantae



Conditions for Customer Ownership

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.

There are currently no USDA permits required for this organism. In order to protect our environment, never release a live laboratory organism into the wild.

Primary Hazard Considerations

None

Availability

- Living Stone plants are generally available year-round.
- Individual plants, low growing and 2–3 centimeters across, are shipped in plastic or clay pots with soil. The potted plant is sealed in a plastic bag and wrapped in corrugated cardboard. For shipping purposes a piece of foam is used to hold the plant and soil in place. Upon receipt remove the potted plant from the bag, and remove the foam. Water immediately.

Care

- **Watering:** Living Stones should be watered well, but not frequently. When kept indoors, water once a week during the summer and once every two weeks in the winter months if there is good sunlight. This plant requires less water during prolonged periods of dull weather. As the plant becomes larger, it requires water less frequently. The best time to water your Living Stone plant is in the early morning of a sunny day.
- **Fertilizers:** Fertilize monthly during summer and once every two months during the winter with an all-purpose water-soluble fertilizer.
- **Temperature:** Average room temperature (68–77°F).
- **Light:** This plant flourishes under the bright heat of direct sunlight.
- **Soil:** A mixture of coarse sand or fine gravel with a potting mix.
- **Propagation:** From seed at room temperature in spring or early summer.

Life Cycle

Dicot. *Lithops* are composed of a pair of very fleshy leaves that fuse together at soil level and taper down forming a root structure. The leaves are transparent, allowing light to enter the body and activating cells to assist with the process of photosynthesis.

Wild Habitat

Lithops are native to Africa, occurring in dry regions of Namibia and South Africa.

Disposition

We do not recommend releasing any laboratory specimen into the wild, and especially not specimens that are not native to the environment. When finished with your plant please dispose of it by incineration in a well-ventilated area.