

The Tallest Cactus Live Fence

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The cheapest and the best live fence can be an effective method for crop protection, providing benefits such as windbreaks, pest deterrence, and soil erosion control.

The below varieties are Indigenous and the tallest among cactus plantations across the world

1. *Pachycereus Lophocereus* **Syn.**

The genus of possibly 9 species of columnar, often tree-like, ribbed, perennial cacti from semi-desert areas of the USA and Mexico. These often-massive cacti branch from the bases of the main stems, and have large, spiny, usually scaly areoles, sometimes woolly or bristly in the axils. The nocturnal or diurnal, funnel- or bell-shaped, or short, tubular flowers are produced only on mature plants. The bristly, spherical, fleshy fruits contain large, black-coated seeds. Where temperatures drop below 10°C (50°F), grow in a temperate or warm greenhouse. In warmer climates, use it in a desert garden.

2. *P. marginatus*, **syn. Stenocercus marginatus**:

Erect cactus with acme time sparsely branched, 4- to 7-ribbed, dark green stems, 8-15cm (3-6in) across, with grey-white areoles and brown to grey spines (5-8 radials, 1 or 2 longer centrals). Bears nocturnal and diurnal, tubular, greenish-white

or pink flowers, 3-5cm (1¼-2in) across, in summer. It grows up to 3- 7 meters and it spreads to 1 meter.

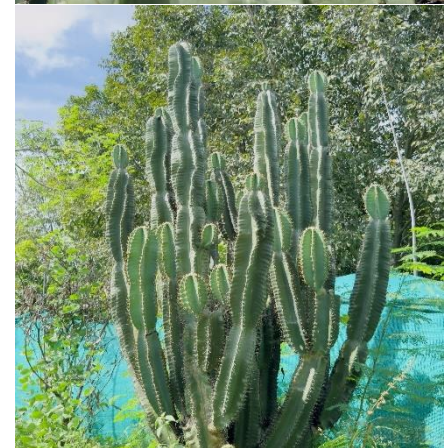


Spines on cactus

3. *P. pecten-aboriginum*:

Erect, tree-like cactus with branched, dark bluish green

stems, 30cm (12in) thick, each with 10 or 11 acute ribs and grey-white areoles basing stiff brown spines, fading to grey (8 or 9 radials, 1 or 2 longer centrals). Bears nocturnal and diurnal, annel-shaped white flowers.



Growth of cactus

4. *P. Pringlei*:

Tree-like cactus with dark blue-green stems, girth grows about 1m (3ft) or thicker, and erect branches, each with 10-17 rounded ribs. Grey areoles have reddish to dark brown spines, fading to grey (about 20 radials, 1-3 slightly

longer centrals). In summer, bears nocturnal, bell to funnel-shaped white flowers, 8cm (3in) across, with greenish red outer petals. It grows height upto 1 to 12-15m (40-50ft) and spreads horizontally about 3m (10 ft.).

5. *P. schottii* l syn.

***Lophocereus schottii*:** Erect, columnar cactus with dull dark green stems, to 10-15cm (4-6in) thick, each with 4-9 ribs. Grey-woolly areoles produce almost black spines, fading to grey (4-7 radials, often 1 central). As the plant matures, a spiny, hairy pseudocephalium forms; in summer, it produces nocturnal, slender, funnel-shaped, red, pink, or white flowers, 3-4cm (1¼-1½in) across, green outside, with an unpleasant smell. It grows upto 7m (22ft) and it spreads to 3m (10ft).

6. *P. monstrosus*: It has misshapen stems, irregular ribs, and spineless areoles, it grows to 3m (10f) height, and spreads width to 1m (3fts). `Tree-like cactus producing glaucous, blue-green stems, 20cm (8in) or thicker, and erect, 8- to 10-ribbed branches. woolly areoles each produce upto 13spines.It grows to 10 m height and spreads to 3m.

Plants requirements

- **Hardiness:** Frost tender-refers to plants that cannot tolerate frost and temperature
- **Sensitivity:** Typically, sensitive to temperatures below 32°F (0°C).
- **Growth Environment:** Prefer warmer climates

Cultivation

- Under glass, grow in standard cactus compost in full light.
- From spring to summer, water moderately
- Apply a low-nitrogen liquid fertilizer every 4-5 weeks.
- Keep dry at other times.
- Outdoors, grow in moderately fertile, sharply drained soil in full sun.

Propagation

Briefly sow seed at 19-24°C (66-75°F) in spring. Take stem-tip cuttings in summer.

1. Seeds Sowing

Start seed sowing in a well-draining cactus mix. Moisten the soil lightly. Keep the container in a warm, bright location but out of direct sunlight. Maintain humidity by covering with plastic until germination occurs (usually within a few weeks). Once seedlings are established, reduce humidity and provide ample light.

2. Cuttings

- **Selection** Choose a healthy, mature stem segment.
- **Preparation:** Allow the cutting to dry for a few days to form a callus over the cut end.
- **Planting:** Insert the callused end into a well-draining cactus mix. Water sparingly until roots develop. Place in a warm, bright location, avoiding direct sunlight initially.

Pests and Diseases

It is vulnerable to scale insects and occasionally mealy bugs. Both insect damage can be controlled through various methods physical and spraying of insecticidal soap water in mixed with neem oil.