

Euphorbia milii var. *hislopii*

Common name: Crown-of-thorns

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Habit: Cactus

Location: Botanical Garden

Distribution: Giant Crown of Thorns is native of Madagascar.

Description:

Giant Crown of Thorns is a larger erect variant of the Crown of Thorns. It has thicker stems to 1 m, larger leaves, and bigger bunches of flowers on longer stems. Red flowers subtended by a pair of conspicuous petal-like bracts, bloom for much of the year. It is a succulent subshrub or shrub growing to 5 ft tall, with densely spiny stems. The straight, slender spines, up to 3 cm long, cover the stems. The plant produces milky latex.

Uses:

It is used as an ornamental plant in gardens. It is widely used in folk medicine for the treatment of warts (South Brazil), cancer and hepatitis (China). It has been reported that it possesses antifungal, anti-oxidative, anti-inflammatory and antiviral properties.

