

# Kapilaas Creations

## JADE --PORTULACARIA ARFA ---ELEPHANTBUSH

Jade, commonly known as friendship tree or Elephant bush, is a succulent plant. The plant itself can be identified with thick branches and smooth, rounded and fleshy leaves that grow in opposing pairs along the branches.

Jade needs a very well-drained soil mix to prevent root rot. You can make a mix of one part sterilized organic soil, one part sphagnum peat moss and three parts coarse sand. Fertilize jade plants once every three to four months. A liquid houseplant fertilizer will work well. Wait four months before feeding repotted plants.



The species has a green color to the leaves, and some species can also develop a red tinge on the edges of leaves when exposed to high levels of sunlight. The growth pattern and structure of the plant is evenly distributed. Dependent on the environment in which it is in, the plant produces small white or pink star like flowers that adorn the ends of new stalks in Spring. They are propagated by stem or leaf cuttings, they require a normal watering when the soil is dry in the summer, and a very little watering in the winter. Soil should be kept moist but not wet while plants are actively growing

in spring and summer. During the winter, let the soil dry between waterings.

Although the succulent look of jade plants may cause you to believe that they need very little water, drought can cause dwarfing, foliage spotting, leaf drop and death. They will grow in full sun

to light shade. However, they do not tolerate extreme heat or overexposure to direct sun very well, showing damage ranging from scorched leaves to loss of foliage and rotting stems. Jade plants do best where they get four or more hours a day of direct sunlight. Plants grown in sun can withstand higher temperatures than those grown in poor light. Soil should be kept moist but not wet while plants are actively growing in spring and summer.

Jade plants can live quite happily for years while root-bound. If repotting is necessary, do it as new growth starts. When your plant becomes older and top-heavy, move it to a large, heavy pot to prevent tipping over. Allow the soil to become dry after repotting. Jade plants can live quite happily for years while root-bound.