

# Senecio rowleyanus

## String of Pearls

### A Garden Guide

Native to drier parts of southwestern Africa, these fun, unusual, low-maintenance plants cascade over the sides of hanging baskets with ease and panache. In the wild, they crawl around the ground and form large mats, trying to find shade under other plants and rocks. Grown in

containers, the strands can reach around 2-3' long. They are in the Asteraceae family and have tiny, white, daisy-shaped flowers with a light scent. With proper care, a single plant can live for 5 years. They are very easy to propagate so you can have a continual, life-time supply. They are not edible. Note that this plant is also known as *Curio rowleyanus*. Hardy to zones 9-12.



**Light:** String of Pearls love bright, indirect sunlight (6-8 hours of sunlight). Hanging near a sunny, south-facing window would be ideal. They can tolerate part sun, but will need less water.

**Water:** They do not like to have their feet wet, so use a high quality, well-draining cactus potting mix and only water when the first inch of the mix is dry. It is better to water them deeply, less frequently. Water less in winter, usually once per month. As they store water in their leaves, these plants are very drought tolerant, and it is important to avoid overwatering. If the leaves start to shrivel, that can be a sign to water them again. This plant does not need high levels of humidity.

**Fertilization:** Fertilize during the growing season with cactus fertilizer.

**Maintenance:** Remove any spent blooms and dead strands. Repot as needed.

**Temperature:** 70F or higher spring through fall; 55-60F fall through spring. Temperatures lower than 55F can cause damage. Version 1.0, Apr 21

