

June Succulent of the Month

Craig Hamilton

Plant Name – **Euphorbia Francoisii**

Family – Euphorbiaceae

Genus – Euphorbia

Species – Francoisii

Description – Small caudiciform (up to 10 inches) with variable multi-shaped and colored leaves. The leaves are usually grey to green with the amount of sun giving them red highlights. The caudex is usually raised and displayed with older plants. The caudex is an excellent way to monitor water content. Nice and chubby is happy; if not, add water.



Origin – Southern Madagascar, subtropical to tropical dry climate. I assume they are an understory plant. I know they are losing their habitat.

Temperature – I keep mine above 45 degrees. Cold and damp are a dangerous combination.

Light – Morning sun to partial shade; more sun = more color. Avoid strong afternoon sun.

Water – Let older specimens almost dry out between waterings. Don't let seedlings and young plants dry out. I bottom water and mist these.

Propagation – Seed, branch and leaf; and in that order for quality and ease.

Soil Mix – I use 40% grit with seedlings, 50% with small plants and 60% with larger specimens.

Thailand has fallen in love with this plant and are creating incredibly unique hybrids. They are crossing francoisii with many other Euphorbias. They are creating many unique leaf colors, sizes and shapes. My favorites are francoisii var. crassicaulis rubrifolia and francoisii/tulearensis hybrids.

