

Euphorbia Neriifolia

Euphorbia neriifolia, also known as Indian Spurge Tree, is one among the over 2,000 species that belong to the Euphorbiaceae family. It is native to Eastern or Central India and also reported in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand.

When cultivated, it looks more like a shrub since it has the traits of a perennial succulent plant. As the plant slowly matures you can expect it to form a tree shape and reach up to 20ft. Most notable feature of the plant are the green leaves that have a strong yellow color on the outside. When the plant flowers you can expect it to produce bell-shaped yellow-green flowers. Another notable feature is the two pronged spikes that line the stems where leaves grew that make it difficult to handle.

Euphorbia neriifolia needs strong light. Full to partial sun is the best for its growth. It is better to grow outdoor rather than indoor. The watering method is very important to keep the plant healthy. It should not be wet, and an excess amount of water should be avoided. The best way of watering is soak and dry method to avoid overwatering. It prefers a warm climate and will appear dormant when the temperature drops below 50 degrees. It can survive at zone 10a-11b. If you live in a cold area, it is better to plant Indian Spurge Tree in an indoor environment.

It can be propagated by leaf cuttings or seeds. When propagating from cuttings, cut a leaf from the mother plant carefully with a clean knife or scissors. Before replanting, wait for a few days to allow it to callous. You can use root stimulator. Use well-draining pots and soil. It is a slow grower, so even though it can be propa-

gated by its seeds, it is not recommended.

Maintaining the plant is fairly easy. When growing indoors where light isn't too bright, the growth hormones might signal the plant to grow in a leggy manner. So, you want to prune the stems just to keep them in perfect shape, and place it somewhere it won't struggle to search for light. Growing outdoors, make sure it gets lots of sun and the pot drains well and don't do much else.

Even though this Euphorbia variety is a hardy plant, it is also prone to a few common issues such as root rot and algae growth which crop up as a result of overwatering. Get rid of any leaves that show signs of wilting or appear to suffer from fungal diseases.

References

<https://www.diys.com/euphorbia-neriifolia/>

<https://succulentsnetwork.com/euphorbia-neriifolia-indian-spurge-tree-care-guide/>

