

Monkey-Puzzle

(Araucaria araucana)

Monkey-puzzle is a slow-growing and unusual tree with shiny leaves and spiny branches. According to plant-name lore, monkey-puzzle gets its name from the fact that its upward-angled spines make it easy for monkeys to climb up the tree, but difficult for them to climb back down.

Light

Expose to medium (bright indirect) light. Avoid full sun. Set plant outside in summer in partial shade.

Water

Let soil surface dry out between thorough waterings. Water less in fall and winter, but do not let soil dry out completely.

Temperature

Maintain average temperatures for best growth, although plant will tolerate much lower.

Comments

Plant in a deep pot, using a porous soil that drains freely. Feed monthly with dilute solution during active growth. Propagate by cutting off a growing tip, letting new growth emerge on the plant, then cutting and rooting the new growth. Provide cutting with lots of humidity.