

# *Tillandsia usneoides*

**Common name: Spanish moss**

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One of the most notable things about Spanish moss is that it's not even a moss at all – this *Tillandsia* is a bromeliad, and is a very distant relative of the pineapple.

Their short, wiry roots attach themselves to cliffs, or almost anything, rather than rooting in soil. They make popular and intriguing houseplants, needing air, light, water and warmth.

Silvery in colour, they are coated in special water-absorbent cells that take in moisture from rainfall or fog in the wild. That helps *Tillandsia* cope with drought conditions.



As a houseplant, immerse them in rainwater two or three times a week then leave to dry out – limescale in tap water blocks their cells.

They enjoy excellent ventilation, good light and warm temperatures. Baby plants – offsets – form at the base of the parent, which makes them easy to propagate.

When they flower, they are spectacular! They do this only once, though, because like other bromeliads, they are monocarpic – they flower once and die.

## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I'm a fog absorber**

My curled leaves are covered with water-absorbing cells which capture and soak up any moisture that lands on them.

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# *Rhipsalis baccifera*

**Common name: mistletoe cactus**

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Mistletoe cactus is a tropical succulent native to rainforests in warm regions. The special thing about these cacti is that they're epiphytic, which means they grow on other plants.

Epiphytes come in many forms. They might have branched stems that are cylindrical, winged or leaf-like, and small funnel-shaped flowers followed by berry-like fleshy fruits. What's more, they grow in rainforests, not deserts.

Commonly known as mistletoe cacti, they are from Central America, the Caribbean and northern regions of South America. They also inhabit isolated locations in Africa and Asia – that makes them unusual for cacti.

Look at their form – their Latin name *Rhipsalis* is from the Greek term for wicker-work because of their interlacing, flexible stems.

## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I'm a water banker**

I have chunky stems that I use to store water and use during prolonged periods of drought.



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# *Vriesea splendens*

**Common name: flaming sword**

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The flaming sword houseplant is one of the most common bromeliads used for indoor decoration and is one of the most striking in appearance.

With rosettes of leaves holding pools of water and flamboyant spikes of colour, this diverse and exotic group of plants are real show-stoppers. Within the rosette of leaves there's often a water-filled 'well' in the centre. The leaves may be boldly striped or suffused with various hues.



Bromeliads thrive in a warm, bright spot indoors. They like humidity and regular watering during the growing season, and very free-draining compost. For bromeliads that have a 'well' in the centre of the rosette, empty and refill it regularly to keep the water fresh.

Their large exotic blooms comprise vibrant petal-like bracts. A bract is a modified leaf that looks like a petal.

Pineapples are a type of bromeliad.

## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I'm a water banker**

My rosettes of leaves collect water and act as a water store.

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# *Echinocactus grusonii*

**Common name: golden barrel cactus**

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This unusual and stunning looking cactus is native to Mexico and the USA, but is now becoming rarer to find in the wild.

These spiny, barrel-shaped cacti get their name from the Greek word for hedgehog – “echinos”. These slow-growing cacti have swollen stems covered in strong spines, and bell-shaped flowers in summer. Even their fruits look “woolly”!

As a houseplant they’re easy – just think about their desert homelands. They need little water when in growth, and none at all when dormant, and they’re not keen on humidity.



*Echinocactus grusonii* is one of the most commonly available to grow at home. Its barrel-shaped stem grows up to 50cm tall, with deep ribs bearing yellowish spines and, on mature plants, yellow flowers up to 6cm in length. It has the common names of golden ball cactus and mother-in-law’s seat. Ouch!

Another species, *Echinocactus texensis* has interesting common names of ground master, horse-crippler cactus and Texas horse-crippler.

## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I’m a surface drinker**

My shallow roots are able to soak up surface water from dew or occasional rainfall.

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# *Euphorbia obesa*

**Common name: gingham golf ball**

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Many *Euphorbia* are cacti-lookalikes. They are fairly unique and intriguing as they are dioecious, meaning male and female flowers occur on different plants.

These euphorbias are from tropical and arid regions and are often grown as houseplants. *Euphorbia* are very diverse in appearance, with succulent species having swollen, sometimes segmented and often leafless stems. Some are ball-shaped, others have long lanky lax stems, others erect, branched and upright. Many produce flower in spring or summer every few years in shades of red, white, pink or yellow.



At home, they are easy to grow in sunny rooms and are ideal for sun-baked conservatories.

Many *Euphorbia* are classed as succulents. Although not related, *Euphorbia* and cacti evolved the same adaptations to survive in hot, dry hostile environments.

*Euphorbia horrida* is a spiny, cactus-looking example of a succulent *Euphorbia*. It has the common name of African milk barrel because of the milky sap typical of euphorbias.

## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I'm a water banker**

I store water in my swollen stems.

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# *Aloe* ‘Lotus Silver’

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Pretty spiralling rosettes of leaves make aloes wonderful sculptural plants. They have fleshy, triangular, green or bluish-green leaves, often toothed along the edges, sometimes with a warty surface. Clusters of yellow or red tubular flowers are produced at the ends of tall leafless stems in summer or autumn.

They are easy to grow in containers and are great in conservatories or as houseplants. Place in full light with good ventilation. Aloes will not grow well in continuously wet compost or in shade. They dislike humid atmospheres and cannot withstand freezing temperatures.

An attractive and potentially handy houseplant, *Aloe vera* is traditionally used to soothe mild sunburn.

Commercially, sap is extracted from its leaves for use in the manufacture of cosmetics, medicines and drinks.

## What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?

### I'm a cell shrinker

I fold my cell walls during drought to reduce losing water.



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# *Sansevieria trifasciata*

**Common name: mother-in-law's tongue**

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These sword-shaped leaves look like they could be seaweed wafting in the water under the sea!

A popular houseplant, mother-in-law's tongue, *Sansevieria trifasciata* is a succulent plant that forms a clump of erect, deep green leathery leaves, often attractively marbled.

It's sometimes called snake plant because of its mottled grey-green snake-like markings that weave their way across the long leaves.

Although they're robust plants, they can have a slightly weather-beaten appearance, sometimes with rough, brown edges and occasionally some minor leaf cracking. This does not affect the long-term health or vigour of the plant but simply adds to its charm.

It's a member of the asparagus family and comes from Nigeria. At home, grow in bright filtered light, avoiding full summer sun. Good for beginners, *Sansevieria* are tolerant of neglect. Allow the soil to dry out completely before watering.



## **What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

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### **I'm a water banker**

I store water in my fleshy leaves to use when I need it.

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# *Curio ficoides*

## ‘Mount Everest’

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Easy-to-grow succulents are fascinatingly diverse - spiny or furry, tiny or tall, bold or intricate, with some easy to mistake for a cactus.

*Curio ficoides*, sometimes called the skyscraper senecio, is a succulent subshrub that can grow to a 1m tall. With erect stems and fleshy, blue-green leaves, the white powdery, waxy substance covering its surface reflects sunlight and helps to keep the plant cool.

As a member of the daisy family it produces small flowers. But unlike the daisy flower we're familiar with, these ones don't have petal-like ray florets. As a result, the flowers look a little bit like pincushions!

### What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?

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#### I'm a water banker

My waxy and fleshy leaves protect me against the sun and wind so I can store water in them.



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# Agave ‘Blue Glow’

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These sculptural succulents are often grown for their striking appearance.

Thick, firm, succulent leaves are pointed at the tip and can have spiny margins or curling, thread-like filaments. Most are greyish-green, sometimes edged with creamy white or yellow.

Agaves need very free-draining, gritty soil, in full sun. They will not grow in shade and dislike overly fertile soil, especially if permanently moist.

Commercially, agaves have long been cultivated for their fibres (sisal) and to make alcoholic drinks, including tequila.

**What is my drought-tolerant adaptation?**

**I’m a dew drainer**

My fleshy rosettes of leaves, shade each other and funnel water down to my roots.



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*Rhipsalis* ‘Red Coral’  
*Rhipsalis baccifera*  
*Rhipsalis burchellii*  
*Rhipsalis cassutha*  
*Rhipsalis cereuscula*  
*Rhipsalis eliptica*  
*Rhipsalis floccosa*  
*Rhipsalis neves-armondii*  
*Rhipsalis pilocarpa*  
*Rhipsalis pulchra*  
*Rhipsalis teres*  
*Selenicereus grandiflorus* ‘Queen of the night’

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### **3. Lighthouse Island – bromeliads (Feature Plant: *Vriesea splendens*)**

*Aechmea caudata*  
*Aechmea chantinii*  
*Aechmea coelestis*  
*Aechmea fasciata*  
*Aechmea orlandiana*  
*Aechmea recurvata*  
*Aechmea victoriana*  
*Ananas* ‘Champaca’  
*Bilbergia* ‘Windii’  
*Bilbergia horrida* ‘Fandango’  
*Guzmania* ‘Variada’  
*Guzmania* ‘Fancy’  
*Guzmania* ‘Mia’  
*Guzmania* ‘Priscilla’  
*Neoregelia* ‘Fuego Ancho’  
*Neoregelia* ‘Midas’  
*Neoregelia pineliana*  
*Neoregelia spectabilis*  
*Neoregelia tigrina*  
*Vriesea splendens*

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#### 4. Lighthouse Island – cacti (Feature Plant: *Echinocactus grusonii*)

*Astrophytum myriostigma*  
*Astrophytum ornatum* var. *mirbella*  
*Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica* ‘Emerald Idol’  
*Austrocylindropuntia subulata* *montrose*  
*Cephalocereus senilis*  
*Cereus peruvianus* ‘Monstrosus’  
*Cleistocactus winteri*  
*Cleistocactus winteri* f. *cristata*  
*Echinocactus grusonii*  
*Euphorbia frutescens*  
*Ferocactus pilosus*  
*Gymnocalycium horstii*  
*Hylocereus undatus*  
*Mammillaria hahniana*  
*Mammillaria painteri* ‘Supernova’  
*Mammillaria plumosa*  
*Melocactus matanzanus*  
*Monvillea spegazzinii* f. *cristata*  
*Opuntia jamaicensis*  
*Opuntia microdasys* var. *albispina*  
*Opuntia polyacantha*  
*Opuntia subulata*  
*Parodia leninghausii*  
*Rebutia albispinus*  
*Rhipsalis* ‘Red Coral’  
*Selenicereus grandiflorus*  
*Sulcorebutia heliosoides*

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#### 5. Palm island – *Euphorbia* (Feature Plant: *Euphorbia obesa*)

*Euphorbia obesa*  
*Euphorbia ingens* ‘Marmorata’  
*Euphorbia suzannae*  
*Euphorbia trigona* ‘Rubra’  
*Euphorbia horrida*  
*Euphorbia mammillaris*



*Euphorbia milii*  
*Euphorbia tirucali*  
*Euphorbia esculenta*  
*Euphorbia alluaudii*  
*Euphorbia stellata*  
*Euphorbia pteroneura*  
*Euphorbia polycantha*  
*Euphorbia ampliphylla*

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## **6. Aloe – Feature Plant: Aloe ‘Lotus Silver’**

*Aloe ‘Lotus Silver’*  
*Aloe ‘Mint Stripes’*  
*Aloe ‘Piranha’ (Fish Series)*  
*Aloe arborescens*  
*Aloe arencola*  
*Aloe brevifolia*  
*Aloe erinacea*  
*Aloe kedongensis*  
*Aloe paradisicum*  
*Aloe speciosa*  
*Aloe vera*  
*Kumara plicatilis*  
× *Gasteraloe ‘Aveo’*

### **Other plants (not Aloe)**

*Senecio rowleyanus*  
*Tillandsia usneoides*

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## **7. Suspended boat (underneath) – Sansevieria (Feature Plant: *Sanseveria trifasciata* ‘Laurentii’)**

*Sansevieria aubrytiana* ‘Dragon’  
*Sansevieria bacularis* ‘Mikado’  
*Sansevieria boncellensis*  
*Sansevieria cylindrica*  
*Sanseveria grandis*



*Sansevieria trifasciata* ‘Laurentii’  
*Sansevieria cylindrica* ‘Star Canary’  
*Sansevieria trifasciata* ‘Victoria’  
*Sansevieria zeylanica*

### **Other plants (not Sanseveria)**

*Aspidistra* ‘Asahi’  
*Calanthe oculata* (in boat)  
*Calanthe vestita* (in boat)  
*Cannomois grandis*  
*Crassula ovata* ‘Gollum’  
*Crassula ovata* ‘Hummel’s Sunset’  
*Crassula ovata* ‘Variegata’  
*Echeveria* ‘Madiba’  
*Echeveria pulidonis* ‘Magma Pearl’  
*Elegia capensis*  
*Elegia elephantina*  
*Elegia gigantea*  
*Kalanchoe delagoensis*  
*Restio subverticillatus*  
*Rhipsalis baccifera*  
*Rhodocoma gigantea*  
*Tillandsia meridonalis*  
*Tillandsia usneoides*

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### **8. Palm Island – succulents (Feature Plant: *Curio ficoides* ‘Mount Everest’)**

*Aeonium* ‘Mardi Gras’  
*Avonia papyracea*  
*Crassula* ‘Curly Green’  
*Crassula* ‘Garnet Lotus’  
*Crassula* ‘Hottentot’  
*Crassula falcata*  
*Crassula muscosa*  
*Crassula muscosa* f. *variegata*  
*Crassula plegmatoides*





*Crassula rupestris*  
*Curio ficoides* ‘Mount Everest’  
*Curio rowleyanus*  
*Echeveria* ‘Cubic Frost’  
*Echeveria* ‘Lilacina’  
*Echeveria* ‘Madiba’  
*Echeveria* ‘Maradiba’  
*Echeveria* ‘Mars Galaxy’  
*Echeveria* ‘Neonbreaker’  
*Echeveria* ‘Parva’  
*Echeveria* ‘Pluto Galaxy’  
*Echeveria* ‘Preta’  
*Echeveria* ‘Red Ruby’  
*Echeveria* ‘Strawberry Heart’  
*Echeveria colorata* ‘Brandtii’  
*Echeveria menina*  
*Echeveria pulidonia* ‘Magma Pearl’  
*Echeveria pulidonis*  
*Kalanchoe* ‘Chocolate Soldier’  
*Kalanchoe* ‘Maltese Cross’  
*Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi*  
*Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* ‘Sport’  
*Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi variegata*  
*Pachyphytum oviferum*  
*Pleiospilos nelii*  
*Sedum*

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## **9. Agave (Feature Plant: Agave ‘Blue Glow’)**

Agave ‘Bad Hair Day’  
Agave ‘Blue Glow’  
Agave ‘Clusterfest’  
Agave ‘Lavender Lady’  
Agave ‘Mission to Mars’  
Agave ‘Snaggletooth’  
Agave × *arizonica*

*Agave arizonica*  
*Agave attenuata*  
*Agave* ‘Blazing Saddles’  
*Agave franzosinii*  
*Agave geminiflora*  
*Agave* ‘Joe Hoak’  
*Agave lechuguila*  
*Agave lophantha* ‘Quadricolor’  
*Agave macroacantha*  
*Agave* ‘Man of Steel’  
*Agave* ‘Moonglow’  
*Agave nana*  
*Agave* ‘Navajo Princess’  
*Agave* ‘Night Owl’  
*Agave parrasana* ‘Fireball’  
*Agave parryi*  
*Agave* ‘Pineapple Express’  
*Agave potatorum*  
*Agave potatorum* ‘Cameron Blue’  
*Agave potatorum* ‘Cubic’  
*Agave* ‘Red Wing’  
*Agave* ‘Silver Fox’  
*Agave titanota* FO-076  
*Agave* ‘Tooth Fairy’  
*Agave utahensis*  
*Agave victoriae-reginae* × *lechuguilla*  
*Agave weberi*

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## Additional Areas

### Sunken Boat

*Aeonium* ‘Schwartzkopf’  
*Agave* ‘Bad Hair Day’  
*Agave* ‘Catch A Wave’  
*Agave* ‘Moon Glow’  
*Agave* ‘Pineapple Express’



*Agave attenuata*  
*Crassula arborescens*  
*Crassula arborescens undulatifolia*  
*Crassula falcata*  
*Crassula ovata* ‘Gollum’  
*Echeveria* ‘Black Prince’  
*Echeveria agavoides*  
*Echeveria pulidonis*  
*Echeveria setosa*  
*Elegia tectorum*  
*Euphorbia ampliphylla*  
*Euphorbia horrida*  
*Euphorbia ingens*  
*Euphorbia ingens* ‘Marmorata’  
*Euphorbia tirucalli*  
*Euphorbia trigona* ‘Rubra’  
*Kalanchoe beharensis* ‘Maltese Cross’  
*Mammillaria karwinskiana* ssp. *nejapensis*  
*Rhipsalis* mix  
*Senecio crassissimus*  
*Senecio herrianus*

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### **Palm and Lighthouse islands- Pelargonium**

*Pelargonium* ‘Élegante’  
*Pelargonium* ‘Galilee’  
*Pelargonium* [Happy Face Magenta] ‘Pachafmag’  
*Pelargonium* [Ingres] ‘Guicerdan’  
*Pelargonium peltatum*  
*Pelargonium* ‘Ville de Paris’ Lilac-Flowered  
*Phoenix roebelenii*

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### **Shipwreck Treasure Museum**

*Agave weberi*  
*Aloe dyeri* × *arborescens*  
*Crassula* (various)





*Echeveria* (various)

*Elegia elephantine*

*Pachypodium lamerei*

*Tillandsia meridonalis*

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## **Sea Creatures**

*Crassula*

*Cryptanthus*

*Echeveria*

*Lithops*

*Sedum*

*Tillandsia*

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