

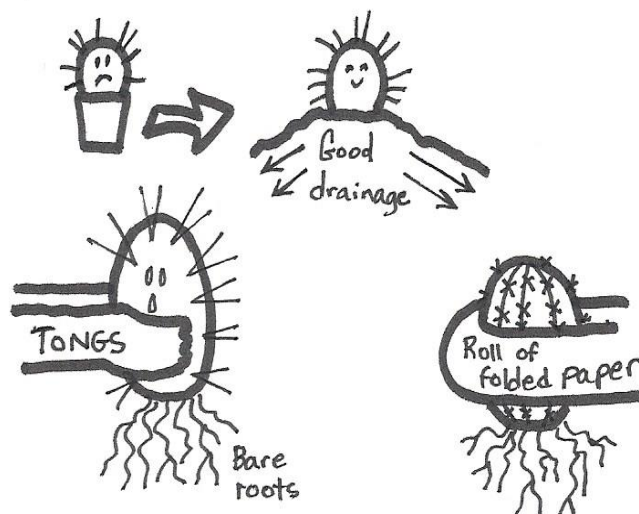
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO

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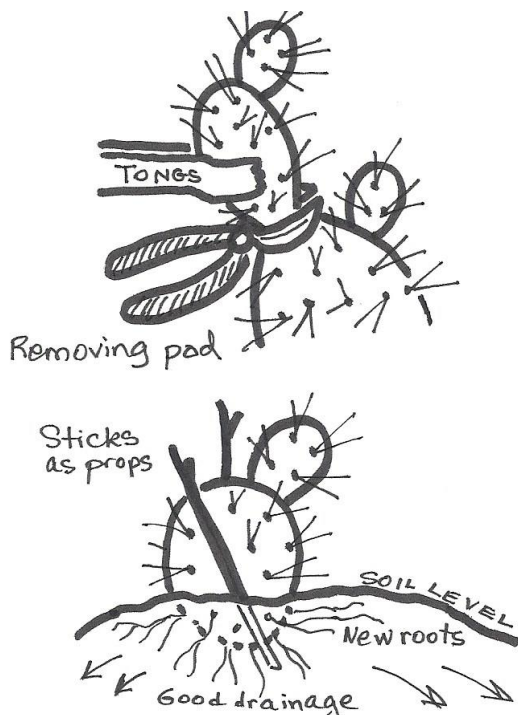
POINTERS FOR SETTING OUT CACTI IN THE LANDSCAPE

Little Guys

- Transplant during growing season.
- Make sure plant is already acclimated to the amount of sun in the area where it will be placed.
- Handle plant tenderly with tongs or folded strip of paper.
- Shake off dirt. (Pot or set out when soil around roots is dry.)
- Make sure soil has good drainage.
- Hold plant upright with roots dangling and add dirt.
- Wait a few days to water, even in hot weather.
- Bud drop may occur if transplanting is done while cactus is in bud.



NOTE: Stickers from most little guys are relatively benign compared to glochids and spines from opuntioid cacti (chollas, prickly pears, and their kin). Some are vicious! **Leather gloves are not enough. ALWAYS use tongs!**

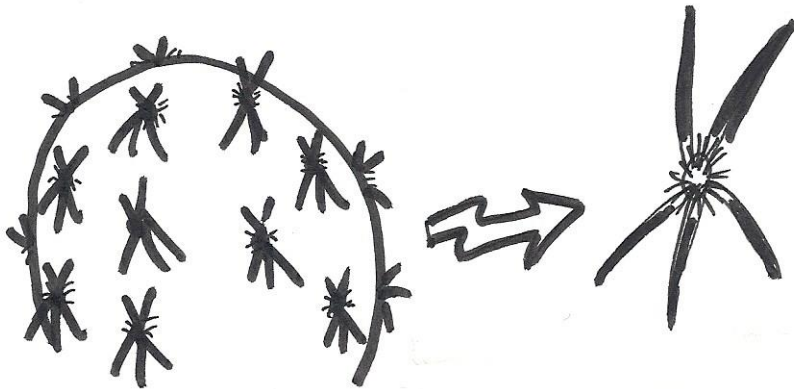
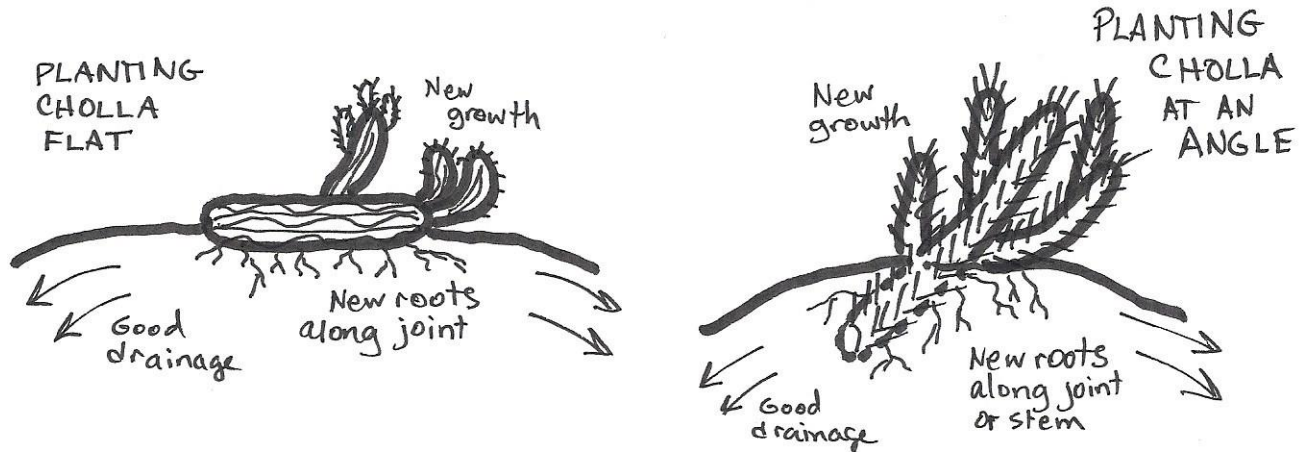


Prickly Pear Pads

- To remove pad, hold it with tongs and snip at the joint with long clippers.
- Let pad lie in the shade for about a week (up to 6 months is fine, too) for the cut end to "scab over."
- Pads will grow roots from areoles touching the earth, so any orientation will work; upright (like a plate in a dish drainer) leads to more aesthetically pleasing growth.
- Hold pad upright on edge with tongs and set it just a few inches deep in the dirt. Prop with two sticks.
- The site must have good drainage.
- DO NOT WATER for several days to several weeks, depending on weather. Watered pads may rot before developing roots; dry pads send out roots to find water.
- Plumpness, new growth, and holding steady without props indicate root formation.

Chollas

- See notes on prickly pears for tongs, snipping, scabbing, drainage, etc.
- Sticking cholla stems in the ground vertically leads to more loss due to rotting.
- Cholla joints fall naturally to the ground and root horizontally (so more areoles touch the earth).
- Root cholla cuttings or joints either horizontally on top of the dirt – or – insert them shallowly into the soil at a slight angle. When they root, new growth will turn upright.
- As with prickly pears, refrain from watering for at least several days.



OPUNTIOIDS: Each areole has two kinds of spines – big ones you can see when you get them in your flesh and hairlike glochids you never see until it's too late.