

Crassula pyramidalis

Also labeled as *C. quadrangularis*, this species is seen in Australian collections as two quite distinct clones. The oldest and most common is a compact freely offsetting from-the-base clone which has a rounded look about it. The second clone is a tall (often 200mm) angular clone which branches higher up on the stem. The smaller clone tends to turn brownish in high light intensities while the taller clone remains a uniform pale green irrespective of light conditions.

In habitat *C. pyramidalis* grows on quartz patches in the western Cape province of South Africa.

Growing *C. pyramidalis* requires no special precautions. Most growth is made in autumn and spring, at least in southern states. I would treat it as a winter grower in semi-tropical areas of the country. Mid-summer watering does not result in much growth unless plants are kept shaded and cool.

Propagation is by stem cuttings. The smaller clone has brittle stems and basal shoots will often detach with only a slight twist. The taller clone requires side stems to be cut off. To avoid rotting around the stem base remove three or four pairs of leaves. Once calloused, the stems will produce roots quickly. Shoots can be stuck into dry potting mix or allowed to callous in the open for two weeks. Avoid leaving the cut stems of the taller clone lying on their sides as the stem ends will after a few days quickly curl towards the light, making it difficult to pot up later.

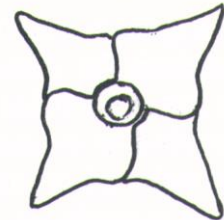
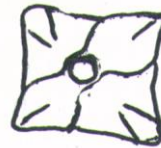
Both forms of *C. pyramidalis* are shy flowerers in cultivation. This is an advantage as flowering disrupts the terminal shoot and causes profuse side branching. The taller clone flowers more frequently. Flowering is during winter. Flowers are white and resemble those of *C. teres* in form and odor.



C. pyramidalis
(compact clone)



C. pyramidalis
(angular clone)



Cross-section of two *C. pyramidalis* forms.



C. pyramidalis in habitat. (Little karoo, Cape Province)