

Botanical Name: Euphorbia tirucalli

Common Name: Pencil tree, Pencil bush, Milk bush

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single or multi-trunked plant, with distinctive
thin, smooth, leafless, succulent branching pattern; forms dense rounded-oval
canopy if unpruned; stems exude a milky acrid sap if cut

Height 10' - 20' Spread 1/2 - equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun (can be grown indoors as houseplant)

Soil well-draining loam; avoid wet, poorly drained soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 13, 23-24): prefers warm sunny coast

Morphology:

Leaves virtually none; tiny leaves fall off leaving the naked
bluish-gray green pencil-thick stems

Flowers inconspicuous; not horticulturally important

Fruit inconspicuous; not horticulturally important

Propagation: cuttings (allow to harden off before planting)

Usage: a distinctive container plant or accent tree, valued for
unusual silhouette and branching form; generally used as an interest plant

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; very drought-tolerant

Fertilizing little required

Pruning thin out the canopy occasionally for dramatic shape

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions avoid getting milky sap or mist of milky sap in eyes

Origin: Madagascar Family: Euphorbiaceae