

Colletia - Growing Guide

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These are very peculiar South American spiny shrubs which look as though they should be succulents. They can however have their uses in keeping unwelcome visitors from the garden. No one, dogs included, would take on a *Colletia paradoxa*!

The branches of *colletia* form succulent flat or triangular mid blue-green or grey-green spines which point outwards from the shoots. Conventional leaves are almost totally absent except in young plants.



Colletia armata 'Rosea'



Colletia cruciata



Colletia hystrix



Colletia hystrix



Colletia hystrix



Colletia hystrix



Colletia paradoxa

Propagation requires a thick pair of gloves to remove side shoots in late summer and insert them in a heated mist bench. Of the two species *C. paradoxa* is the most peculiar in appearance. At Ventnor Botanic Gardens

both species grow together in partial shade as free standing shrubs of some note providing you do not get too close!

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