

# *Crassula argentea* Jade Plant<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Jade plants have long been used in containers where they will live for years in root-bound conditions but can also be used as specimen or hedge plantings outdoors in full sun, part sun, or deep shade. While growth is very slow, jade plants are extremely tolerant of poor, dry soil, the thick, succulent leaves, and stout branches acting as water-reservoirs. This characteristic makes them very suitable for houseplants. Install several plants in a container to develop a full plant quickly.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Crassula argentea*: Jade Plant  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Leaf - *Crassula argentea*: Jade Plant  
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Figure 3. Flower - *Crassula argentea*: Jade Plant  
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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Crassula argentea*

**Pronunciation:** KRASS-yoo-luh ar-JEN-tee-uh

**Common name(s):** jade plant

**Family:** *Crassulaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Figure 4)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** border; accent

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** obovate

**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** variegated

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** unknown

**Fruit length:** less than 1/2 inch

**Fruit cover:** unknown

**Fruit color:** red; purple

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** brown

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## Use and Management

Jade plant may grow for many years without blooming. When flowers do appear, they form in small, white or pink clusters at the tips of branches. Blooms are uncommon in the areas of the country with high humidity, such as Florida.

Fast-draining soil is a necessity with jade plant to help avoid root-rot, with waterings being infrequent and only when the soil is very dry. In Florida, too much rain and irrigation prevent this plant from use as a landscape plant in all but the driest soil. It has been used as an outdoor specimen or houseplant in the warm areas of California. Trunks to six inches in diameter can develop on older plants.

There is a cultivar with variegated leaves which is commonly used as a house plant.

Propagation is by cuttings.

## Pests and Diseases

Jade plants can be bothered by scale, but their major problem is usually overwatering.

No diseases are of major concern.