

# Pilosocereus pachycladus

## Blue cactus



Pilosocereus is a genus of cactus native to the Neotropics. Tree cactus is a common name for Pilosocereus species. The commonly cultivated *Pilosocereus pachycladus* is a blue cactus with hairy areoles that emit golden spines.

Family: Cactaceae

Genus: *Pilosocereus*

*Pilosocereus* is a genus of cacti native to Mexico, the Caribbean, and Brazil. Containing many different species, *Pilosocereus* includes both [cacti](#) that are commonly used in cultivation and some that are so rare that they're almost unknown outside botanical sources. The most common houseplant in the genus is *Pilosocereus pachycladus* (also known as the blue column cactus), which large nurseries produce in bulk and sell wholesale.

This [desert](#) species has a branched form and grows fairly quickly, often adding between 1 and 2 feet of height a year. Those that flower do so at night and all are most easily identifiable by their attractive blue-green skin, which is complemented

by bright yellow spines. *Pilosocereus* cacti are mostly tree-like, and their flowers are shaped like tubes and grow fleshy fruits. In cultivation, they are planted and grown year-round, mostly in greenhouses due to their large size and need for warmth in the winter. Their name derives from the Latin term for "hairy cereus," thanks in part to their spiny aureoles, many of which have a golden tint.

Despite their large size, *Pilosocereus* cacti are commonly cultivated as domestic cacti in tropical areas due to their aesthetic beauty. Gardeners with the correct climate and enough space should consider plants from this genus for their landscape, while others can grow them on a smaller scale indoors.

