

# SUCCULENTS & CACTI



Succulents are some of the easiest plants to grow and enjoy indoors or out. They make an excellent plant for beginning gardeners to expert “green thumbs”. Succulent plants are known for their juicy leaves or stems where they store water and nutrients allowing them to withstand harsh conditions. Cacti are a popular part of the succulent family, identified by their cushioned growth points called areoles where their infamous spines are produced! The many varieties, shapes, and colors of succulents provides a practically foolproof plant that grows well in sunny containers or rock garden beds. For care and variety information see below:

**Light** - Bright to medium indirect light to direct sun. Placement in an east, west or south window will work well.

**Temperature** - Grow in average household temperatures (65-85 degrees), and outdoors during the growing season (mid-May to mid-October). Winter temperatures of 50-55 degrees F will induce dormancy.

**Watering** - Water moderately to thoroughly during the growing season, but let soil dry out completely between watering. In winter water sparingly or not at all if kept dormant (50-55°F). Succulents work well in dry, low humidity environments.

**Fertilize** - Use Osmocote for Houseplants in the spring lasting all growing season, a Cacti food, or use a half strength, water soluble multi-purpose plant food once every month April through September.

**Soil & Potting** - Use a well-drained potting soil or Cacti soil mix. Be sure to use gravel or drainage material at the bottom of a container garden before planting. Sand or pebbles can be used as a soil cover. Succulents can be used in an open, desert type terrarium as well.

**Other maintenance needs** - Repot in spring when the roots have filled its container. Propagate by separating “baby” rosettes, leaves/leaf nodes, or active growing plant tissues and let cure/dry for a week to callus. Place or plant in moist, well-drained soil or next to the “mother” plant. An insecticidal soap spray and a systemic insecticide are best at controlling any infestation the plant may develop.

## Common Succulents:

- Aeonium (Tree Houseleek)
- Agaves
- Aloe
- Bromeliad
- Cacti
- *Cephalocereus senilis* (Old Man Cactus)
- Cotyledon ‘Happy Young Lady’
- Crassula (JadePlant)
- Echeveria
- Euphorbias (Crown of Thorns)
- Graptopetalum (Leatherpetal)
- Gymnocalycium (Chin Cactus)
- Haworthia Kalanchoe
- Portulaca (Moss Rose)
- Rhipsalis (Mistletoe Cactus)
- Senecio (String of Pearls, Chalk Fingers)
- Schlumbergera (Christmas Cactus)
- Sedum (Stonecrop, upright & groundcover, Burro’s Tail)
- Sempervivum (Hen’s & Chicks)
- Yucca

