

SUCCULENTS & CACTUS

Succulents and cactus are relatively low-maintenance plants, that require less water and attention than other plants. As long as they are planted correctly and given plenty of light you can be successful with your desert garden!

Light

You can grow almost any succulent indoors as long as you give it enough access to bright light. The best place for your succulents is next to your sunniest window for at least 6 hours a day. Cacti and succulents will not thrive in dark corners, and will be happier with direct light.

Water

You should only water your plants when the soil is completely dry. When you water, drench the soil so that the water is coming out of the drainage hole. Allow the soil to dry before watering again. Frequency depends on the size of the pot, and location. Indoor succulents will be watered less frequently than if grown outdoors, and summer will require for watering than winter. Do not mist the plants with water, as it will increase humidity, and encourage mold to grow.

Soil & Pot

Succulents and cacti require a lightweight, well-drained soil. Regular potting soil can be mixed with perlite or sand, but a soil mix made specifically for cactus or succulents is ideal. Also make sure your pot has a drainage hole. If it does not have a drainage hole, add a layer of gravel beneath the soil and be sure to water less often. Unglazed clay or terra cotta pots are very porous, which will wick additional moisture from the soil. Because of this wicking, they don't necessarily need a drainage hole.

Bad soil and poor drainage will contribute to over watering and root rot, which are the number one ways to kill succulents and cacti.



Red Flags

Mushy Leaves

If you notice mushy, spongy, or swollen leaves, then you are watering too often, or the pot does not have proper drainage

Shriveled Leaves

Wrinkled or contracted leaves are a sign of dehydration, and you are not watering enough. It is normal for some leaves to die or fall off (particularly older ones), so that symptom doesn't necessarily mean the plant needs more water.

Color Loss & Etiolation (stretching)

If the plant starts to turn a lighter green, loses its color, starts to stretch, look "leggy" or have large gaps between petals, then the plant isn't receiving enough light. Move to a sunnier window with direct light. Consider making this move transitional (a slow introduction to more direct light) to prevent sunburn.

Rotting

If you notice your plant is beginning to rot, then the soil is probably too dense, or the pot does not have adequate drainage. You can save healthy leaves and try to propagate them to make new plants