

Welcome to The Cactus Garden: bright, hot, dry, clay, BEAUTIFUL!

What's **YOUR** microclimate?

Every garden has a unique microclimate. Like real estate, it's all about LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. Consider these simple things each time you plan to add a plant(s):

LIGHT:

- o 'full sun' is 6 or more hours; 'part-shade' is 3-4; 'full shade' is 0-1; morning light is best for most plants;
- o watch & chart the way the sun moves in your garden & how larger plants shade smaller plants

TEMPERATURE range:

- o e.g. Redwood City and San Carlos are hotter and drier than San Mateo and San Francisco.
- o Walls and pavement/patios reflect heat onto adjacent plants. Use it to your advantage.

WATER:

- o e.g. San Mateo and San Francisco are cooler and wetter than Redwood City and San Carlos.
- o How much do you want to spend on irrigation? Nothing? There are plants for that!

NUTRIENTS:

- o What kind of soil do you have? Don't know? – have it tested by a UCCE lab
- o How much do you want to spend changing it? Nothing? There are plants for that!

Gardening is easy if you know your microclimate. There are hundreds of plants to suit it. Right plant, right place = much less work + much less \$

Sources for succulents and cactuses:

Most nurseries and plant retailers sell succulents and cactuses. Many plants in this garden came from:

California Cactus Center – Pasadena
<http://www.cactuscenter.com>

Moorten Botanical Gardens - Palm Springs
<http://www.moortengarden.com>

Poots' House of Cactus – Ripon
www.cactus-mall.com/poots

Succulent Gardens - Castroville
<http://sgplants.com>

The material surrounding the cactuses is Sunset Gold Pathfines from Lyngso. www.lyngsogarden.com
The blue glass rock came from The Garden of Glass. www.gardenofglass.com

Best websites:

www.CactiGuide.com

This site reviews dozens of books, both general and specific, includes articles, advice and sources AND is easy to navigate.

Arboreta/Gardens with significant cactus collections:

Huntington Library & Gardens, San Marino, CA www.huntington.org

Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinatas, CA www.qbgardens.com

Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AZ www.dbg.org

Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superior, AZ arboretum.ag.arizona.edu