



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

A Newsletter for Our Gardening Friends

Caring for Succulents

Succulents generally prefer light shade and protection from the hot sun. If they get too hot, the leaves may become bleached or have brown spots. These cannot be fixed. Put the plant into more shade and wait for new growth.

Most succulents are killed by overwatering. Succulents should be watered once a week in the summer, once every two weeks in the fall and spring, and only once a month in the winter. If your succulent is in a small pot, it may need to be watered more. Let the succulent's soil dry out between watering.

When planting your succulent, or repotting it, use a well draining soil. Cactus planting mix is coarser than regular potting soil and so drains better. If you put your succulent in a pot with no drainage hole, use a layer of rock or plant charcoal on the bottom so the plant doesn't sit in water. If it does, it will turn black and mushy and should be disposed of.

Many succulents need frost protection. If the temperature drops to 25 degrees, use a frost cloth over the succulents or move them to a protected site. If you want to grow new succulents, pinch off a leaf and let it sit in a dry spot for 3 days or so. Once they scab over, put them in soil but don't water them. Wait a couple of weeks and then water frugally.

Succulents can be lightly fertilized with liquid fertilizer put into moist soil and have pests. Some pests can be either picked off, sprayed off with water, or treated. Check with your nursery for fertilizer and pest control products for succulents.

Upcoming Workshops

The Public is Welcome to Attend

Jun-30 10:00 SUCCULENT GARDENING & PROPOGATION Mary Alleranez, UCCE

Jul-14 10:00 CREATING a BACK-YARD WILDLIFE HABITAT Pat Shay, Merced Gardens

Aug-11 10:00 TBA

Sep-8 10:00 FALL GARDEN TOUR/ PLANT SALE Marilynne Manfredi, UCCE

Oct-13 10:00 Tree Selection and Planting Stan Bunce UCCE

Nov-10 10:00 Leaf Mold and Composting UCCE

Have Gardening Questions? Call the Help Line at (209) 385-7403. Hours are Mondays, 2-4; and Thursdays, 9-11.

Follow us on Facebook: Merced County Master Gardeners

If you would like info on the Master Gardener Program, email anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu

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