



COMMON PESTS, PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

| Common Pests (See: UC Davis Integrated Pest Management www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) | |
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| SYMPTOM | REMEDY |
| Aphids | Spray off with water. Use beneficial insects. Caution w/insecticidal soaps—know your succulent! |
| Caterpillars | Identify caterpillar, then treat. Hand pick off. Use beneficial insects. Neem oil (caution-can burn leaves in direct sunlight). <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (BT). |
| Fungus (Anthracnose, Black sooty mold, Black spot, Grey mold, Fusarium wilt, Powdery mildew, Root & crown rot) | Remove affected stem or leaf. Avoid overhead watering. Provide good air circulation and a dry environment. Use appropriate fungicide. |
| Mealy bugs | Use rubbing alcohol on cotton swab to remove (gently). Insecticidal soap. Beneficial insects. Clean/isolate plant. Repot/throw away soil. |
| Scale | Scrape or gently rub off w/alcohol. Remove leaf/stem. Insecticidal soap. Neem oil (caution-can burn leaves in direct sun). Throw away plant with soil/potting mix. |
| Snails/Slugs | Pick off. Use non-toxic snail bait. |
| Spider mites (Arachnid/spider) | Brush webbing/mites off right away onto paper. Repot-throw away soil. Neem oil (caution-can burn leaves in direct sunlight). |
| Thrips | Insecticidal soap. Neem oil (caution-can burn leaves in direct sun). |

| Common Problems/Solutions (See: UC Davis Integrated Pest Management www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) | | |
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| SYMPTOM | PROBABLE CAUSE | REMEDY |
| Black grimy soot on leaves & stems. | Black sooty mold. | Control/eliminate aphids or scale causing "honeydew". Neem oil. |
| Black spots on leaves. | Fungus: Black spot. | Remove leaves, tolerate if not severe. |
| Black or brown stem (lower part of plant). | Fungus: Root rot. | Remove plant from pot/soil. Disinfect pot/tools. Cut infected area off. Repot propagate healthy section. Change watering practices. |
| Elongated growth (etiolation). | Not enough light. | Improve light conditions. |
| Failure to bloom/very few flowers. | Fertilizer: Too much nitrogen or fertilized during dormancy. | Use balanced fertilizer at ½ strength. Give plant "summer rest". |
| Failure to make new growth. | Over-watering. Compacted soil. Roots decaying | Change watering practices. Repot. Amend soil. Use cactus/succulent mix. |



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| SYMPTOM | PROBABLE CAUSE | REMEDY |
| Flower buds drop. | Temperature too low or significant fluctuations in temperature. | Inside: Move to warmer, draft free location. Outside: protect from wind. |
| Glassy, translucent look in fall or winter. | Frost damage. | Remove damaged sections. Protect from frost. |
| Grey-brown masses of spores on leaves and flowers. | Fungus: Grey mold (Botrytis blight) | No cure if infested. Remove and destroy affected leaves. Avoid overhead watering. |
| Leaves burned, scorched. | Too much direct sun. Phototoxicity. | Move plant. Don't use Neem oil or chemicals in direct sun. |
| Moist tan colored rot with red, orange or pink abscesses on surface of leaves. | Fungus: Anthracnose | Remove and destroy leaves. Sterilize pots and tools. Remove contaminated soil. Apply copper fungicide. |
| No new plant growth | Compacted soil w/poor drainage. Root/pot bound. | Amend soil, use cactus/succulent mix. Improve drainage. Repot. |
| Pale color on new growth. | Root injury (transplanting, rodents) | Trim away dead/damaged roots. Repot. |
| Soft or mushy growth. | Over watering, too much moisture (rain, fog, etc.). | Change watering practices. Move to protected area. Cut away mushy parts & treat cuts w/fungicide. |
| White powder on leaves, stems and buds. | Fungus: Powdery mildew. | Remove infected sections. Neem oil or sulfur based fungicide. Increase air circulation. Change watering practices. |
| Yellowing or wilting leaves. | Fungus: Fusarium wilt (soil born fungus). | Change watering practices. Less water while plant trying to recover. Prevent by using good sanitation when planting. |