




---

# SELECTING & GROWING SUCCULENTS

---

<b>SELECTING &amp; GROWING SUCCULENTS</b>	
1)	<p>“Choose the right plant for the right place.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify your climate zone (Sunset and/or USDA Hardiness).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planting indoors or outdoors? In a pot or in the ground?</li> <li>○ Is plant “tender” or “cold hardy”?</li> <li>○ Consider microclimates (cold air sinks, hot air rises, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Succulent or cacti?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Growing needs may be different.</li> <li>○ Consider safety issues (children, pets, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2)	<p>Consider growing and dormant periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may affect where you place your plant for your viewing pleasure, for pollinators, etc.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tells you when to water and when to stop watering. Especially important if on a watering system.</li> <li>○ Tells you when to place in greenhouse or bring indoors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Very important to know when to propagate or divide your plant.</li> </ul>
3)	<p>Temperature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is plant “tender” or “hardy”.</li> <li>• Good air circulation is very important, especially to minimize/avoid pests and diseases.</li> <li>• Protect from wind during all seasons of the year. Remember microclimates!</li> <li>• Protect plant from frost. FROST kills!</li> </ul>
4)	<p>Lighting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some varieties do not tolerate direct sun. Can lead to scorching giving entry for diseases.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If indoors, be careful if plant is next to a window as plant can get scorched.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lighting affects plant growth and flower development.</li> <li>• Sun exposure:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If planting outdoors, southern, SW or SE facing slopes.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Exceptions: Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving cacti.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5)	<p>Watering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>OVERWATERING</b> is #1 killer of succulents!</li> <li>• Water thoroughly only when needed, when soil/potting mix is almost dry.</li> <li>• Minimal watering during dormant season.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exceptions: Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving cacti.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6)	<p>Planting mix or well-draining soil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use cactus/succulent mix or make your own. Suggested mix:</li> <li>• 2 parts potting mix (low to no peat): 2 parts perlite: 1 part volcanic rock (3/16”)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoid vermiculite (holds too much moisture).</li> <li>○ Can add coarse sand to the mix.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7)	<p>Fertilizer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilize during growing season. Know your succulent’s growing/dormant season!</li> <li>• Succulents do not need a lot of fertilizer.</li> <li>• Use ¼ to ½ strength of a balanced fertilizer (10 Nitrogen-10 Phosphorous – 10 K Potassium).</li> <li>• Foliar fertilizers not recommended.</li> </ul>