



# KNOW How More



## Succulent Container Gardens

### Lighting

If indoors, a southern or western facing window would have the most ideal bright light for growing succulents.

Many succulents will thrive under incandescent or fluorescent supplemental lighting if the ideal lighting situation is not available.

When temperatures are above freezing, these container gardens can be enjoyed outdoors in a full sun location.

### Watering

The amount of water needed depends on:

1. The time of year
2. The size of the plant
3. The type of potting soil
4. The size of pot

As a result, plants can't be watered on a set schedule, but here are a few tips for watering:

- Overwatering is the easiest way to kill a succulent or cacti plant, so prior to watering, check the soil with your finger to judge the amount of moisture still left.
- If the soil still feels moist, don't water yet. Wait until the soil completely dries out before watering again.
- When watering, soak the container thoroughly, allowing excess water to drain away.
- Your container should provide adequate drainage so that the roots are not standing in water.



### Temperature

Most cacti and succulents can adapt to wide fluctuations of temperature because that is what occurs in their native desert habitats.

Exposure to temperatures between 40°F and 90°F for long periods is not harmful. In fact, many desert plants will initiate flower buds when grown in a cool, dry, well-lit location. Night-time temperatures of 45°F to 50°F are suitable to stimulate flower bud formation.

### Fertilization

Feed plants monthly with a standard houseplant fertilizer, only during the active growing season which is usually between March and October.

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## Why Grow Succulents?

- *Minimal watering needs*
- *Few disease and pest problems*
- *Can grow outdoors in the summer and as houseplants in the winter*
- *They have interesting flowers and plant forms*

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## Making a Succulent Container Garden

1. The first step is to prepare your soil. Cacti and succulent plants prefer soils which are well-drained and do not have a high water-holding capacity, so a sandy soil mix is usually recommended. You can either purchase this type of soil in pre-mixed bags from a garden center, or mix your own using the recipe below.
2. Fill the container with soil up to a few inches from the top edge.
3. Remove the plants from their pots and arrange in the container. A mixture of plant shapes, colors, and heights can help make your container more interesting.
4. Add additional soil until the plant's root balls are covered, making sure to leave about 1 inch of space below the top edge of the container to allow for easy watering.
5. Finish the container with moss, rocks or decorative accessories if desired.

## Supplies and Tools

- Pre-mixed cacti and succulent potting mix OR container potting mix and perlite or coarse sand
- A container with drainage holes
- Succulent plants of various sizes
- Decorative rocks or moss

## DIY Succulent Soil Recipe

A standard soil mixture for desert plants could call for:

- One-part peat moss or basic potting mix
- OR one-part perlite or coarse sand

## CONTACT

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