

Succulents

Succulents are booming in popularity for two simple reasons: they are beautiful and nearly indestructible. There are many unique varieties and are very versatile. Remember, every species is unique and has its own special requirements. There are numerous online sources that you can use to research your particular plant. The more you know the better care you'll be able to give to your succulents.

Light:

Succulents like bright light. A south-east or south-west facing room would be the best locations because they typically allow bright light all day long.



Water:

Succulents do not like to stay bone dry for too long. A good rule of thumb is to water when the surface becomes dry during the growing season. However, you do want to make sure the bottom is dry and the plants are not sitting in water. In the winter time when the plants are not actively growing, watering can be decreased to once or twice a month. Certain succulents, like Aloe Vera, do not tolerate salt buildup. Using distilled water or letting water sit in container for a few days before use will help to prevent this. Be very wary of is overwatering as it may cause the roots of your plant to rot.

Fertilizer:

During the spring and summer, succulents will need to be fed once or twice a month. They don't need very much so use half of the rate that's recommended for house plants. Some varieties will need even less fertilization. Gasteria is a good example of a group of succulents that do not like a lot of fertilizer. If they get too much they get black spots on their leaves.

Soil:

Succulents like well-drained soil but it does not need to be as rocky as a cactus soil. Usually a commercial brand of Cactus/Succulent soil will be just fine. If you would like to make your own soil, a good mix would be 2 parts potting soil, 1 part gravel, and 1 part perlite. A mixture like this will allow for more drainage than regular potting soil, which is important for succulents.

Pests:

While most succulents don't have many pests, it's important to still keep an eye out for insects and diseases. Aphids and mealy bugs may appear. If you come across these issues, dab a cotton swab into isopropyl alcohol and spot treat. Do not spray your plants with alcohol.



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