

Succulents-General Care

The group of plants called succulents is very large and covers plants from many families, species, and regions of the world. In general, succulents are drought resistant plants in which the leaves, stem, or roots have become more than usually fleshy by the development of water-storing tissue.

These are general guidelines for growing succulents. Because this group of plants is so large and varied, this should be considered a starting point only, your particular succulent may have slightly different specific needs.

Light:

In general, succulents thrive in bright conditions, with direct sun only in the very early or late part of the day. Too much direct sun may wash out leaf colors or burn the leaves, while low light can cause stretchy growth or even cause the succulent to gradually die.

Soil:

If you are careful with your watering practices, most succulents can be grown in regular potting soil. However, it can be a lot easier to grow succulents if you use a potting mix especially for them. The specialty soils are loose and quicker-draining, making it harder to overwater your succulents.

Water & Fertilizer:

Though succulents evolved to survive in low moisture situations, they grow and look best when provided with just enough water for their needs. Water when the soil becomes dry a little bit down in the container. If leaves or stems soften or begin to shrivel, your succulent is much too dry.

Fertilize only during periods of active growth, generally in spring and summer, with a general-purpose fertilizer or a cactus and succulent fertilizer.

Temperature & Humidity:

Regular home temperatures and humidity levels are suitable for succulents.

Repotting:

Repot when your succulent becomes difficult to keep watered, or when the plant becomes out of proportion to the container. Because of their modest water needs, most succulents are tolerant of being somewhat pot bound.



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Fun Fact 1

While all cacti are succulents, not all succulents are cacti.

Fun Fact 2

There are no cacti native to Africa. The cactus family is only native to the New World.



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