



Cacti & Succulents

At a Glance

Water: Allow soil to dry before watering, water thoroughly when dry; reduce frequency in fall & winter

Light: High light, at least 2-3 hours direct sun daily; in winter, direct southern exposure may be too extreme

Soil/Container: containers MUST have drainage holes, soil should be coarse and well-drained

Feeding: feed regularly, about every other watering, only during growing period (March-October)

Cacti and succulents are some of the most interesting and satisfying and can be some of the easiest plants to grow. In nature, they endure the most extreme conditions. However, they still have specific requirements in order to thrive. These care instructions are a general guide. Some unusual varieties may have more specific needs. Please consult a plant care professional, specified literature, or online guides for additional information.

Watering

The basic rule for most cacti and succulents is to water thoroughly when the soil is dry (allow the soil to dry almost completely before watering). The plants will require more frequent watering during the spring and summer. Watering may be reduced to occasionally in late fall and winter. Over-watering may cause the plant to rot, whereas under-watering will cause shriveling and lack of vigor.

Light

Cacti and succulents thrive in sunny locations and require at least two to three hours of direct sunlight daily. However, direct southern exposure during the winter months may be too extreme, and can cause damage to the plant. Acclimatize the plant by gradually increasing sun exposure over a couple of weeks. A few varieties of succulents prefer shadier conditions (for example, Aloe Vera). Careful observation is important when moving a plant to a new location.

Soils and Containers

Cacti and succulents can be grown in a wide variety of containers. The container should have plenty of drainage (drainage holes are a MUST). Plastic or ceramic will dry more slowly. Clay pots will dry out more quickly and evenly. It is important that the soil medium used is coarse and well-drained. Excellent commercial brands like **Crump Cactus Soil** are available in our store.

Feeding and Pests

Cacti and succulents need regular feedings. Feed the plant during the active growing months (March through October). An all-purpose fertilizer like a 20-20-20, at half-strength, used about every other watering up to once a month will be sufficient. Make sure that you water the plant thoroughly *first* with plain water before you fertilize.

Succulents have few pests, but some can occasionally be a problem. The most common is the mealy bug, characterized by white, cottony masses under the leaves or on the body of the plant.

Remove insects by using either rubbing alcohol on a cotton swab or washing the plant with liquid dish soap and water. Commercial sprays are available for extreme cases, but use caution, as some formulations may have a toxic effect on the plant.