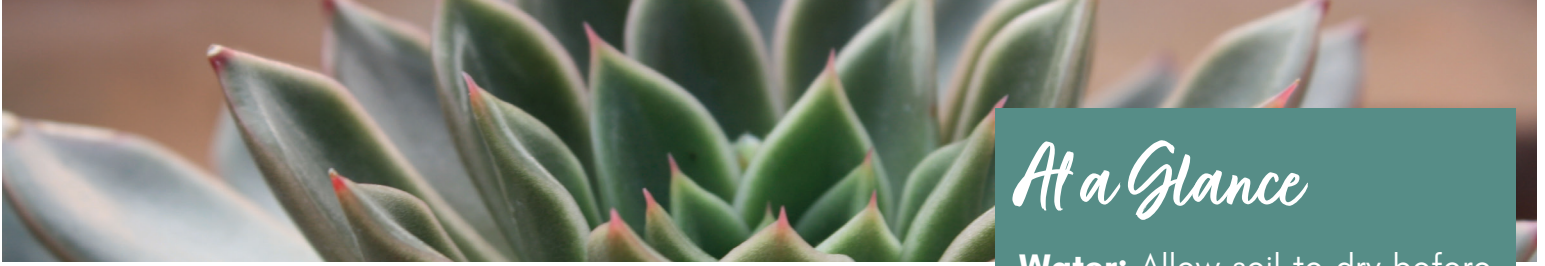


# Cacti & Succulents

*A guide to growing succulents and cacti that will thrive indoors*



In nature, cacti and succulents endure the most extreme conditions. These care instructions are a general guide. Some unusual varieties may have varied needs. When in doubt, our Foliage team, as well as the internet, can be a fantastic resource.

## Watering

The basic rule for most cacti and succulents is to wait until soil is completely dry and water thoroughly. Watering frequency can be reduced in the winter.

Cacti and succulents are sensitive to overwatering, and resulting root rot can be fatal to plants. On the other hand, underwatering can reduce the plant's vigor and cause foliage to shrivel. This is why checking the plant's soil for moisture regularly is vital to its health.

## 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. You can acclimate the plant by gradually increasing sun exposure over a couple of weeks.

A few varieties of succulents, such as aloe vera, prefer shadier conditions. Careful observation is important when moving a plant to a new location. If leaves start to show signs of sunburn, move to an area with slightly less sun exposure.

## Soils and Containers

Cacti and succulents can be grown in a wide variety of containers. Containers should have plenty of drainage, so drainage holes are crucial. Plastic or ceramic pots will cause soil to 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. Use a mixture of sand, soil, and coarse material like pumice. At Tagawa we recommend Crump Cactus Soil, which is available in our Foliage Department.

## Feeding and Pests

Cacti and succulents like to feed regularly. Feed the plant during the active growing months (March through October) using an all-purpose fertilizer like a 20-20-20, at half-strength, used about every other watering up

### *At a Glance*

**Water:** Allow soil to dry before watering. Water thoroughly when dry. Reduce frequency in fall & winter.

**Light:** Bright light; at least 2-3 hours direct sun daily. In winter, direct southern exposure may cause sunburn.

**Soil/Container:** Containers **must** have drainage holes; soil should be coarse and well-drained.

**Feeding:** Feed about every other watering during active growth period (March–October).

to once a month. Make sure to water the plant thoroughly first with plain water before fertilizing.

## Pest Control

The most common pest to feed on succulents and cacti 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. Neem oil can be used to control spread, but take care to only apply in the evening or remove plants from direct sunlight, as neem oil causes foliage to become more susceptible to sunburn.