



# *At Home with* **Succulents**

Ken Altman



**Free with Purchase  
of a Succulent**

# Succulents are Plants that Solve Problems



Succulent foliage comes in red, pink, lavender, yellow and blue as well as stripes, blends and speckles. The plants also produce lovely flowers.

**S**ucculents look great with minimal care, won't wilt if you forget to water them, and are delightful to collect and use in gardens and containers. The more you know about these intriguing plants, the more you'll enjoy growing them.

Chances are you're familiar with jade and big agaves (century plants), but did you know that nearly 20,000 varieties of succulents exist? Many of those currently available in nurseries and garden centers were introduced to the marketplace during the last few decades.

Succulent leaves, which typically are thicker than those of other plants, range in size from dainty beads to 6-foot swords. Some succulents, notably cacti, are as round as balls. A few, particularly euphorbias, resemble undersea creatures. Agaves and furcraeas have upright, fountain-like leaves. *Aloe bainesii* (aloe tree) and *Dracena draco* (dragon tree) form trunks and grow tall.

Ice plants with vivid blooms make eye-catching groundcovers and are good for slopes. Vining and pendant succulents are perfect for hanging containers. Succulents such as adeniums store water in bulbous roots, which can be exposed to show them off.

Photographers, collectors, landscapers and container garden enthusiasts prize dwarf and diminutive succulents with geometric shapes. Among these are sempervivums (hens and chicks), echeverias, agaves and aloes.

Most cacti are leafless succulents with spines that radiate from central points. All cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti. Some have long, overlapping spines that create starburst patterns. Collectible cacti include those covered with what appears to be white hair. Such filaments serve as a frost blanket in winter and shade the plants in summer.

Nearly all succulents do well in pots, terraces and planter boxes. Some varieties (such as jade), when confined, will naturally bonsai, maintaining the same size for years. Even those with the potential to become quite large stay smaller longer in containers.

Most succulents need protection from below-freezing temperatures, but frost-tolerant succulents do exist. Among them are yuccas, sempervivums (hens and chicks), many sedums (stonecrops), and some agaves and cacti. ↗

A plant is a succulent if it stores water in juicy leaves or stems in order to survive dry spells.

# Why Use Succulents?

## The Ultimate Easy-Care Plants

In the Southwest, before automatic irrigation became the norm, aloes, agaves, jade, yuccas and shrub aeoniums — along with geraniums — were default plants. Homeowners used these plants to fill bare dirt when they didn't want to spend time gardening or having to remember to water.

When irrigation systems made watering easy and conserving water was yet to be a concern, the typical yard incorporated thirsty tropicals, citrus, rose bushes, annuals and a lawn.

Today, due to a growing awareness that the Southwest is basically an irrigated desert — prone to drought and with limited water for a surging population — things have come full circle. Many homeowners no longer want high-water, high-maintenance yards and lawns.

Fortunately, there now are more water-wise, easy-care succulents in garden centers than ever before, and new varieties are continually being introduced. It is now possible to have a landscape that is colorful, verdant and interesting in ways low-water gardens never were before.

They make good-looking container plants for your home and garden, are easy-maintenance, and are fun and interesting to collect. And because succulents don't mind neglect, you needn't worry about them when you're away.

Much of the appeal of succulents is the way they look. They're often described as "geometric," "architectural" and "sculptural." Succulents are not difficult to grow and, in

fact, are perfect for brown-thumb gardeners. Because the plants don't need a lot of care, growing them frees time that otherwise would have been spent on yard work. Succulents also are friendly to the ecology, posing no threat to birds or other wildlife. Nor do the plants encroach, like weeds, where they're not wanted.

Other uses for spiky cacti and agaves are as security plants under windows or along property lines. But perhaps the most unusual — and important — use for succu-

A garden comprised primarily of succulents needs trimming four times a year or less.

lents (typically jade, ice plant, aloes and prickly pear cactus) is as a wildfire barrier. Because of their high moisture content, the plants are slow to catch fire and do not transmit flames.

Collectors have enjoyed succulents (the more bizarre the better) for decades. The Cactus & Succulent Society of America now has chapters in every major city, and many host exhibitions. Also well worth seeing are public gardens and nurseries with idea-rich plantings of succulents (see Resources, p. 23). 



Agaves, aeoniums and sedums planted here with durable perennials make a colorful, easy to care for garden.  
Agave parryi truncata, Aeonium arboreum 'Zwartkop', Sedum nussbaumerianum ~Design by Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents

# Succulent Plant Care

## Water, Soil & Fertilizer

Most succulents are capable of going without water significantly longer than similarly-sized garden plants, but they do need regular water to look their best. Depending on the weather, the plant and the size of the container, this might be as often as once a week or as infrequently as once a month.

The fatter the succulent, the more water it holds and the less it needs. Golden barrel cactus is an example of a succulent that does fine in the arid Southwest on rainfall alone. With its shape, color and texture, the plant also makes a wonderful landscape enhancement.

Regardless of which succulents you grow, make sure water drains rapidly from the soil. There are many successful soils for succulents (they are not fussy), but the ideal mix contains about equal parts organic material like peat or ground bark, and inorganic material like pumice or perlite (but not more than 10% sand).

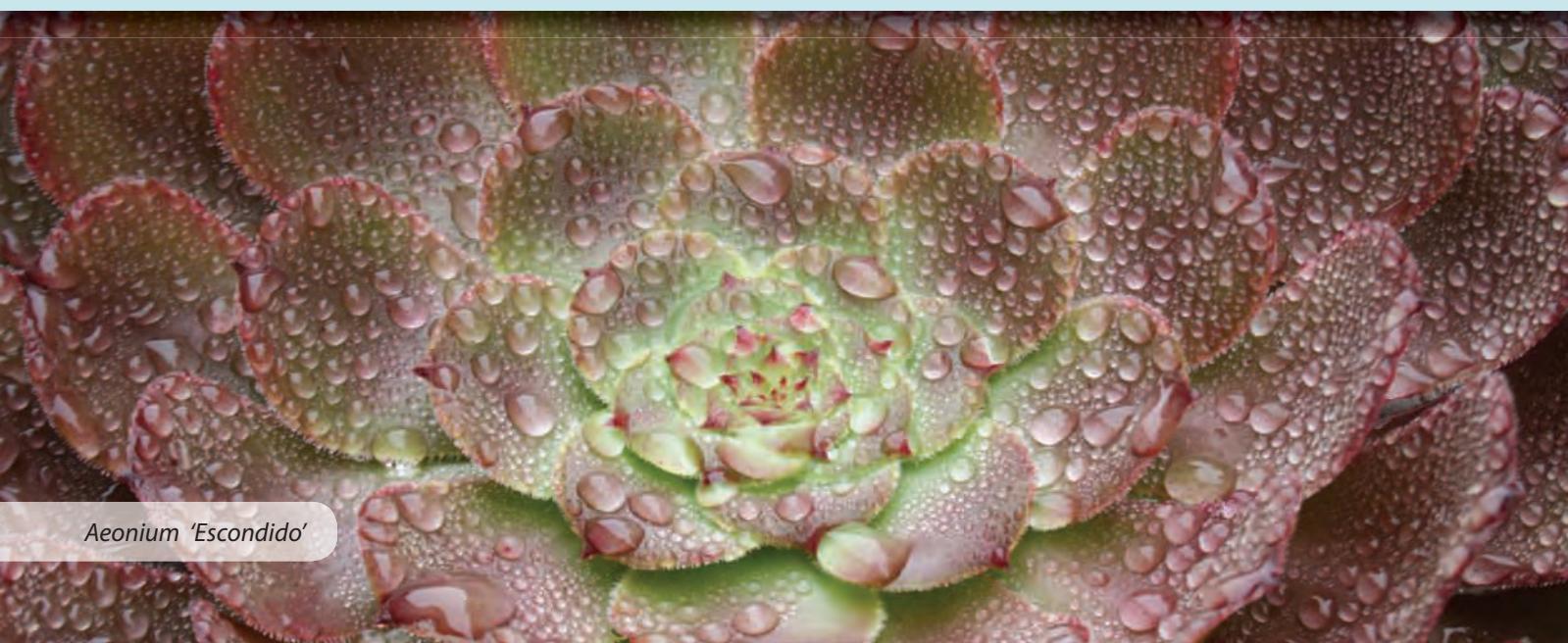
Dry soil weighs less than wet, so one way to tell if a potted succulent needs water is to lift it, or push a wooden chopstick into the soil. If the stick is damp

A rule of thumb is to let soil go nearly dry between waterings.

when you pull it out, with soil adhering to it, don't water. When you do water, let it flow out the holes in the bottom of the pot to flush salts that may have built up in the soil.

During the growing season (spring and summer for most succulents), commercial growers use dilute fertilizer to encourage lush and rapid growth. But if you're pleased with the size of your succulents and the way they look, you needn't fertilize them at all. Or simply apply a balanced liquid fertilizer diluted to half the recommended strength, once or twice a year.

What happens to a succulent if its soil goes completely dry? As the plant draws on stored moisture, its leaves may lose their sheen and shrivel. Yet these are tough plants. Even when neglected for a month or more, most succulents recover when watered again. ♦



Aeonium 'Escondido'



Given rich, friable soil and regular water, succulents grow lush and fill in rapidly.  
*Agave attenuata variegata, Echinocactus grusonii (golden barrel), Agave parryi truncata*

## Temperature, Light & Grooming

If garden plants such as geraniums, philodendrons, hibiscus and bougainvillea are prevalent in your area, it means that frost is not a concern, and you can grow succulents outdoors year-round.

Even if temperatures occasionally drop below 32°F, many succulents — once established or in the right location — handle cold better than one would expect. Your garden likely has microclimates that are significantly warmer than exposed areas. Walls radiate heat, as do pavement, hardscape and boulders. Keep in mind that southern exposures are warmest; northern, coldest. Also, the slightest cover, such as an eave or tree branch, will provide some frost protection.

Surprisingly, a little more cold, sun or dryness than the plants prefer may serve to make them even lovelier. The colors of the leaves of certain succulents (notably jades, aloes and echeverias) will intensify when they are stressed, turning them vivid shades of orange and red.

Most succulents do best when given bright light (several hours of sun daily). Although many will grow

in shady or indoor conditions, the plants may stretch toward light. Rotating potted succulents 180 degrees once a week or so will keep growth balanced.

Succulents are among the most pest-free plants, especially when grown outdoors. Good air circulation prevents harmful insects from settling on the plants. Occasionally, however, mealy bugs (which look like bits of cotton) may appear where leaves join stems. Aphids, which look like black or yellow pinheads, are attracted to new growth — especially flower buds. Hosing the plant will dislodge aphids. For houseplants, keep rubbing alcohol diluted to half strength handy, and spray pests, should they appear. Or, dab them with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol.

A little grooming will keep your succulents tidy. When flowers are finished, snip stems close to the plant. As old leaves turn dry and brown, cut or pull them off. If bits of debris or dry leaves fall into a dish garden or become stuck to a cactus, extract them with long-handled tweezers. And if you need to pull weeds from around spiky cacti and agaves, you'll find that fish hook pliers come in handy. ♦

# Inspiration

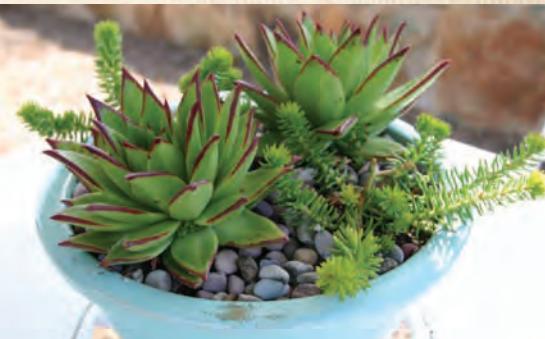
## Dish Gardens

*Euphorbia tirucalli, Kalanchoe luciae (Flapjacks), Sedum 'Angelina'*

Use a high quality soil media in the container, such as commercial cactus mix. Or create your own mix of equal parts potting soil and pumice or perlite. Place plants to your liking, fill recesses with soil, tamp firmly and water thoroughly. Place in bright light or dappled sunlight. Water well when soil is dry to the touch. Trim plants to maintain desired shape.



**Left:** Color me red! Geraniums, *Kalanchoe luciae* (flapjacks), and *Aloe cameronii*. **Below:** Sweet and simple: *Echeveria agavoides* with sprigs of *Sedum 'Angelina'*, dressed with pebbles.



**Below:** Echeveria rosettes form a beautiful pattern.  
**Right:** A variety of echeveria rosettes mix with sedums and senecios.



*~ Designed by Chicweed*

## Around the House

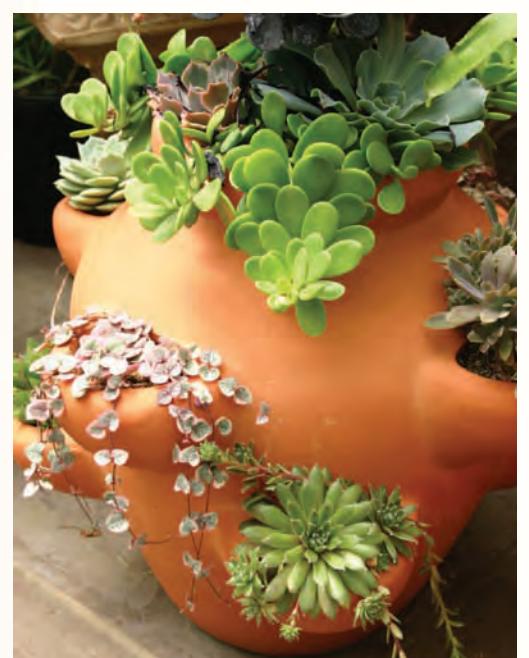
**Left:** Vibrant *Kalanchoe luciae* (flapjacks) contrasts with a simple glazed pot. **Below Left:** Burgundy-tipped *Aeonium atropurpureum* in burgundy bowls enhance entry pedestals. **Below:** Single and mixed plantings are brought together in a collection of terracotta pots. ~Design by Schnetz Landscape



**Below:** Tuck sedums into steps. From top step, down: *Cotyledon ladismithensis*, blue *Senecio mandraliscae*, *Echeveria gibbiflora* hybrids, *Sedum rubrotinctum*. ~Design by Amelia Lima



**Below:** Renew a strawberry pot with a showcase of succulents: *Senecio jacobsonii* cascades from the top; side pockets feature echeveria and sempervivum rosettes, as well as trailing *Ceropogia woodii variegata* (String of Hearts).



# Inspiration

## In the Landscape



**Left:** Echeverias and graptoverias form stripes.  
**Below:** Rosea ice plant surrounds aeoniums and *Agave attenuata*.

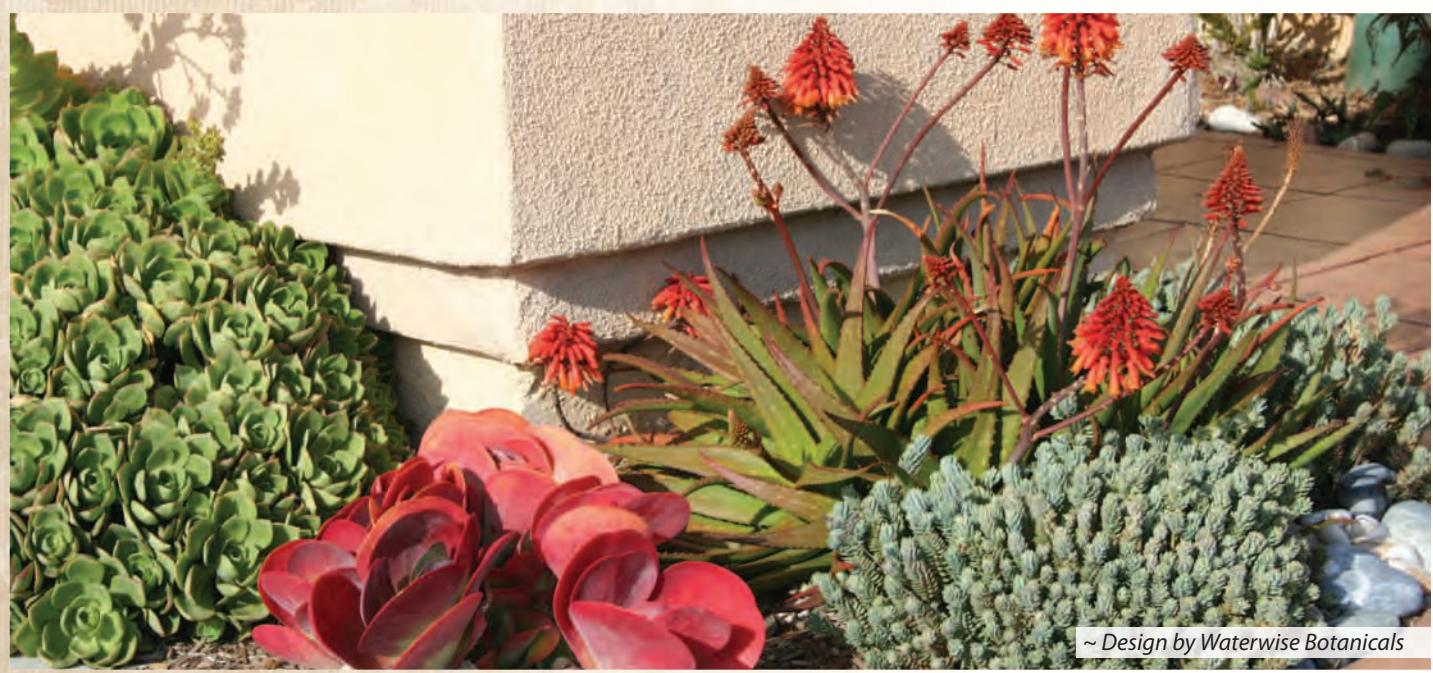


**Right:** A bedding planter is filled with green and cream colored *Aeonium 'Sunburst'*, and coordinating variegated phormium. The pot at the far left is planted with *Furcraea foetida 'Mediopicta'*.

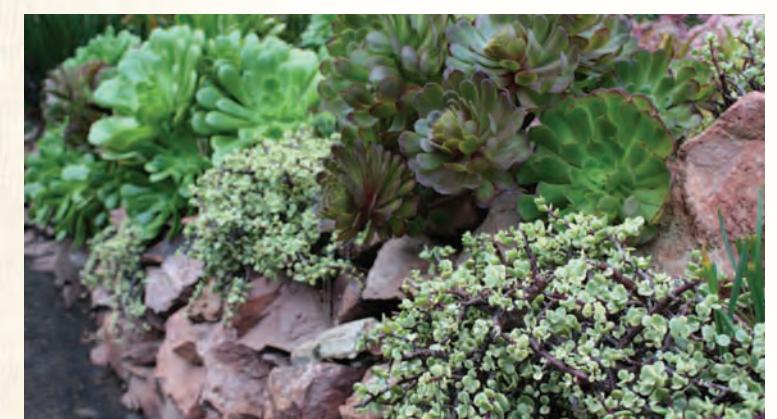


**Above:** A front-yard garden combines yellow-edged *Agave americana variegata* (in back), red-tipped *Kalanchoe luciae*, a flowering aloe, blue *Senecio mandraliscae*, golden barrel cactus and dudleya (in front).

**Below:** *Aeonium decorum*, *Kalanchoe luciae*, *Aloe 'Rooikappie'* and *Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce'* border a walkway.



**Below:** Blue *Echeveria imbricata* rosettes alongside *Agave bracteosa* which has smooth, supple leaves. Further down, *Portulacaria afra* forms 'Variegata' combines with assorted aeoniums.



## Textural Cactus



~ Design by Elisabeth Crouch



**Left:** The sun intensifies the purple of *Opuntia violacea* 'Santa Rita' in blue pots.  
**Below:** *Oreocereus* (right) and *Echinocactus grusonii* (golden barrel) (left) combine with flowering osteospermum.



**Left:** Averaging less than a half inch in diameter, *Mammillaria gracilis* v. *fragilis* looks like tiny snowballs. **Lower left:** *Mammillaria spinosissima* 'Red Headed Irishman'.



### Tips for Transplanting Cacti

When transplanting, loop a rolled newspaper or twisted cloth around the widest part of the plant. An efficient way to carry a barrel cactus is to lasso it with a length of soft hose. Tall columnar cacti often are transported wrapped in carpet.



A recently dug-up ferocactus is easily carried with a length of hose.

Cacti and succulents are wonderful for small collections and as well as large-scale collectors.



**Top:** Echeverias in martini glasses. **Top Right:** *Kalanchoe luciae* (flapjacks) make a nice desk accessory. **Bottom:** Succulents replace votive candles. **Bottom Right:** *Aloe vera* is decorative and can be used to treat minor cuts, scrapes and sunburns.



The variety of shapes, patterns, textures and colors make these plants enticing to collect. Perfect for decorating an office, windowsill, patio, dorm, kitchen or bath, these easy-care plants will start conversations and inspire the designer in you.



## In the House

## Wondrous Details



**Below:** Twisting *Cereus peruvianus* 'Spiralis' is remarkable in the landscape.

**Further down:** The hairs of *Oreocereus celsianus* provide protection.

**Right:** *Aloe bainesii* grows to 10 to 20 feet.



**Left and below:** *Fenestraria aurantiaca* (baby toes) (left) and *Lithops* (Living Stones) have transparent windows that enable sunlight to enter.



Surprisingly, some of the most beautiful flowers in the plant kingdom are those of cacti.

**Below:** *Aloe arborescens* flowers in January.

**Bottom:** *Euphorbia milii* (crown of thorns) blooms in shades of red, pink, yellow, peach, white and bi-colors.

**Right:** *Lampranthus aurantiacus* (gold ice plant)



## Brilliant Flowers



**Above:** Intense magenta blooms of a cactus-*Trichocereus grandiflora* hybrid.

**Below:** Aeonium flowers



# Varieties



**Aeonium  
Adenium**  
*Adenium obesum*

Free-flowering patio or windowsill plant. 36" tall over time.



**Aeonium 'Blushing Beauty'**

Grows to 14" tall x 24" wide. Clustering rosettes are an unusual chocolate color.



**Aeonium 'Kiwi'  
Aeonium percarneum 'Kiwi'**

Grows to 15" tall x 24" wide. Bright yellow variegation is stunning.



**Aeonium 'Voodoo'  
Aeonium undulatum x Aeonium arboreum 'Zwartkop'**

Grows to 10"+ tall. Low clumping; great color.



**Aeonium 'Zwartkop'  
Aeonium arboreum 'atropurpureum Zwartkop'**

Grows to 30" tall x 24" wide. Tall stems are topped with the deep burgundy rosettes.



**Thread Agave  
*Agave filifera***

Grows to 24" tall x 24" wide. White filaments line narrow-leaved rosettes.



**'Confederate Rose' Agave**

Grows to 14" tall x 16" wide. Fast off-setting, durable agave forms attractive clumps.



**Artichoke Agave  
*Agave parryi truncata***

Grows to 18" tall x 30" wide. Classic agave – makes a great statement in the landscape.



**Tequila Agave  
*Agave tequilana***

Grows to 8' tall x 8' wide. The heart of the plant is used for making tequila.



**Aloe 'Blue Elf'**

Grows to 24" tall x 18" wide. Free flowering in February/March.



**Crocodile Plant  
*Aloe brevifolia***

Grows to 12" tall x 12" wide. Durable, clustering plant.



**Climbing Aloe  
*Aloe ciliaris 'Firebreak'***

Grows to 24" tall x 72" wide. Fast growing. Clumps of this plant can retard the spread of fire.



**Aloe 'Crosby's Prolific'**

Grows to 10" tall x 15" wide. A classic, clumping aloe. Flowers easily.



**Aloe 'Firebird'**

Grows to 6" tall x 10" wide. Repeat-flowering miniature aloe that blooms almost all year.



**Fan Aloe  
*Aloe plicatilis***

Grows slowly to 4' x 4'. A slow growing tree aloe with leaves forming fans.



**Medicinal Aloe  
*Aloe vera***

Grows to 24" tall x 18" wide. Medicinal aloe used for sunburn and minor skin scrapes.



**Living Stone  
*Aloinopsis schooneesii***

Grows to 1" tall x 1.5" wide. Miniature mimicry plant from South Africa.



**False Ocotillo  
*Alluaudia procera***

Grows to 12' tall x 2' wide. Madagascar origin. Sculptural spires of stems.



**Anacampseros  
*Anacampseros telephium variegata***

Grows to 2" tall x 3" wide. Small, jewel-like succulent.



**Climbing Onion  
*Bowiea volubilis***

"Onions" grow to 6" in diameter over time. Perfect windowsill plant.



**String of Hearts  
*Ceropeltis woodii variegata***

Vining and trailing to 30".



**Peanut Cactus  
*Chamaelobivia 'Rose Quartz'***

Grows to 5" tall x 4" wide. Free flowering, clustering cactus.



**Cissus tuberosa  
*Cissus tuberosa***

Grows to 8" tall x 4" wide. From the grape family. Good bonsai.

## Aloe

Aloes hail from South Africa. The dozens of varieties of aloe range from fist-sized to trees, but all have gel-filled leaves in common. Aloes bloom for several weeks, often in winter, sending up waxy, torchlike flowers in brilliant shades of orange, yellow or rose-red.

## Cacti

Cacti are highly efficient moisture-storage vessels. Their spines, which in some varieties overlap to form intriguing patterns, protect, shade and/or collect moisture for the plants. Cacti can be spherical, columnar or pad-forming, and all varieties produce satiny flowers. As living sculptures, cacti make excellent potted plants.

# Varieties



**Silver Torch**  
*Cleistocactus strausii*  
Grows to 4' tall x 18" wide.  
Clustering columnar cactus.



**Hobbit Jade**  
*Crassula argentea 'Hobbit'*  
Grows to 42" tall x 42" wide.  
A fancy form of jade plant.



**Crassula 'Campfire'**  
*Crassula capitella 'Campfire'*  
Blazing red foliage  
when grown in bright sun.



**Propeller Plant**  
*Crassula perfoliata v. falcata*  
Grows to 15" tall x 10" wide.  
Fragrant red flowers.



**Valentine Plant**  
*Crassula platyphylla*  
Grows to 4" tall x 12" wide.  
Red foliage – very attractive  
and easy to grow.



**Echeveria 'Encantada'**  
Grows to 6" tall x 18" wide.  
Strong, thick flower stalks on  
silver-white rosettes.



**Echeveria 'Black Prince'**  
Grows 3" to 5" tall x 8" wide.  
Dark-leaved echeveria. Red flowers.



**Desert Rose**  
*Echeveria gibbiflora*  
Grows to 6" tall x 14" wide.  
*E. gibbiflora* hybrids exhibit many  
different forms of leaf crinkles and color.



**Miniature Echeveria**  
*Echeveria minima*  
Grows to 3" tall x 4" wide.  
Icy-blue rosettes.



**Hens and Chicks**  
*Echeveria 'Imbricata'*  
Grows to 6" tall x 12" wide.  
Blue rosettes pup freely to  
form tight clusters.



**Echeveria 'Perle Von Nurnberg'**  
Grows to 5" tall x 8" wide.  
Pink rosettes marginated with cream.



**Echeveria 'Topsy Turvy'**  
Grows to 6" tall x 9" wide.  
Tubular leaves and silvery color make  
this a standout.



**Golden Barrel**  
*Echinocactus grusonii*  
Grows to 30" tall x 36" wide.  
Most popular cactus for gardens,  
landscapes and collectors.



**Mike**  
*Euphorbia acurensis*  
Grows to 8'+ in time.  
Freely branching tree euphorbia.



**Tanzanian Zipper Plant**  
*Euphorbia anoplia*  
Grows to 8" tall x 8" wide.  
Clustering, glossy and durable  
potted plant.



**Firesticks**  
*Euphorbia tirucalli 'Firesticks'*  
Grows to 5' tall x 4' wide.  
Turns red in cool weather. One of the  
most striking succulents.



**Medusa Plant**  
*Euphorbia flanaganii*  
Grows to 5" tall x 10"+ wide.  
Clusters of yellow flowers in spring.



**Green Coral**  
*Euphorbia flanaganii cristata*  
Grows to 5" tall x 10" wide.  
The growing point is an  
undulating fan called a "crest."



**Alabaster Swirl**  
*Euphorbia lactea cristata variegata*  
Grows to 18" tall x 24" wide.  
Dramatic, pink-edged crests become  
more convoluted over time.



**Crown of Thorns**  
*Euphorbia milii*  
Blooms almost nonstop.



**African Snowflake**  
*Euphorbia polygona 'Snowflake'*  
Grows to 18" tall x 8" wide.  
Silver-white stems slowly  
grow into clusters.



**Good Luck Plant**  
*Euphorbia trigona*  
Grows to 6' tall x 3' wide in time.  
Good house plant.



**Royal Red**  
*Euphoriba trigona 'Royal Red'*  
Grows to 6' tall x 3' wide in time.  
Red version of the green form.



**Tiger Jaws**  
*Faucaria tigrina*  
Grows to 6" tall x 12" wide.  
Yellow flowers in late summer/early fall.  
Leaf pairs look like a tiger's toothy jaws.

## Echinocactus (Golden Barrel)

There is arguably no greater design enhancement to a dry garden than these golden-yellow spheres. The color, texture and shape of golden barrels lend interest, definition and contrast to any composition. For maximum effect, group golden barrels in threes.

## Euphorbia

Euphorbias, from Africa, are the Old World's equivalent to cacti. Succulent euphorbias come in a multitude of shapes, from chubby little balls like *Euphorbia anoplia* (which makes a delightful addition to pots) to tall, columnar *Euphorbia acurensis* (which is great for adding vertical interest to dry gardens).

# Varieties

## In the House

Most succulents can grow in a sunny window, but certain varieties do best as they are either adapted to low light or they grow so slowly that they maintain their shape for a long time. Sansevierias, haworthias, gasteraloes, most cacti, jade plants and aloes perform well as indoor plants.



**'Green Ice'**  
*Gasteraloe 'Green Ice'*  
Grows to 6" tall x 8" wide.  
Super structural. Great house plant.



**Grafted "Moon" Cactus**  
*Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*  
The colorful top, which lacks chlorophyll, is grafted onto a host plant. Look for yellow, pink, and orange cultivars, as well.



**Plaid Cactus**  
*Gymnocalycium mihanovichii v. friedrichii*  
Grows to 3" tall x 3" wide.  
Repeated waves of pink flowers.



**Flapjacks**  
*Kalanchoe luciae*  
Grows to 15" tall x 12" wide.  
Great form; reddens if enough light and cool weather.



**Panda Plant**  
*Kalanchoe tomentosa*  
Grows to 12" tall x 12" wide.  
Fuzzy leaves make it a favorite of kids.



**'Chocolate Soldier'**  
*Kalanchoe tomentosa 'Chocolate Soldier'*  
Grows to 12" tall x 12" wide.  
Fuzzy, chocolate-brown tipped leaves.



**Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterflies'**  
*Kalanchoe delagoense variegata*  
Incredibly colorful variegated form of an old hybrid.



**Stone Faces**  
*Lithops species*  
Grows to 1" tall x 1.5" wide.  
Mimicry plants match the rock color of their habitat. Extremely drought tolerant—avoid over-watering.



**Golden Ball Cactus**  
*Notocactus leninghausii*  
Grows to 12" tall x 8" wide.  
Balls become columnar over time.



**Balloon Cactus**  
*Notocactus magnificus*  
Grows to 6" tall x 6" wide  
Yellow spines and flowers.



**Angel Wings**  
*Opuntia microdasys albata*  
Grows to 8" tall x 6" wide.  
Cute little white-dotted pads; classic opuntia form.



**Santa Rita Prickly Pear**  
*Opuntia violacea 'Santa Rita'*  
Grows to 30" tall x 36" wide.  
Stunning purple when in full sun; great landscape plant.



**Old Man of the Andes**  
*Oreocereus celsianus*  
Grows to 24" tall x 8" wide.  
Evolved hair to shade the body and capture moisture from mist.



**False Saguaro**  
*Pachycereus pringlei*  
Grows to 30'+.  
Classic columnar cactus.



**Madagascar Palm**  
*Pachypodium lamerei*  
Grows to 4' tall x 8" wide  
Wonderful as a potted plant.



**Split Rock**  
*Pleiospilos nelii*  
Grows to 2" tall x 4" wide.  
Another mimicry plant from South Africa. Yellow flowers fade to salmon.

## Mimicry

Mimicry plants (living stones) resemble smooth rocks or pebbles. Their native habitats are among the harshest in the world, with only a few inches of rainfall a year. They grow in coarse sand with just their translucent tops showing, enabling sunlight to reach the interior of the plant.



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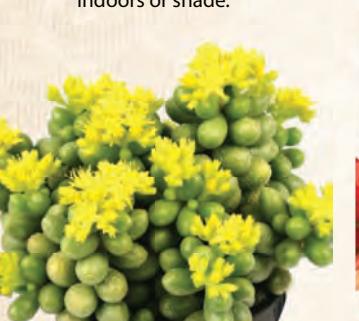
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**Corsican Stonecrop**  
*Sedum dasyphyllum 'Major'*  
Grows to 3" tall x 8" wide.  
Miniature blue sedum.



**Jelly Beans**  
*Sedum hernandezii*  
Grows to 3" tall x 4" wide.  
Slow growing, bead-like sedum with yellow flower clusters.



**Pork and Beans**  
*Sedum rubrotinctum*  
Grows to 4" tall x 12" wide.  
High color on this special cultivar.



**Cobweb Houseleek**  
*Sempervivum arachnoideum 'Cebenese'*  
Grows to 4" tall x 6" wide.  
Beautiful white webbing in the center of rosettes.



**String of Pearls**  
*Senecio rowleyanus*  
Grows to 5' long  
Fragrant flowers on ever-lengthening stems strung with pearl-shaped leaves.



**Trichocereus**  
*Trichocereus grandiflora hybrids*  
Grows to 15' tall x 4" wide.  
Easy to grow, clustering, columnar cactus.



**San Pedro Cactus**  
*Trichocereus pachanoi*  
Grows to 15' tall x 4" wide.  
Easy to grow, clustering, columnar cactus.

## Opuntia

Opuntia cacti, commonly called prickly pear or beaver tail, have paddles that grow atop each other, creating the whimsical look of mouse ears. It is an excellent background plant, gets by on rainfall alone, and can be used as a firebreak. In Mexico and parts of the Southwest, opuntia pads are eaten as a delicacy known as *nopales*.

# Hybrids and Patented Plants

Breeders are continually selecting new cultivars and creating new hybrids to offer plant lovers. This may be for better hardiness, bug and disease resistance, purely for aesthetics, or for any and all of those reasons. Examples of this are the *Chamaelobivia* cacti hybrids that result from crossing *Chamaecereus sylvestrii* (*peanut cactus*) with *Lobivia* species. The resulting hybrids show a

greater resistance to mealy bug as well as diseases and the exceptionally large flowers come in a variety of gorgeous colors. If a new hybrid displays significant aesthetic appeal or vigor, it may be eligible to be patented. The patented and selected varieties shown here are from Altman Plants in Vista, California. (Patented plants are issued a patent number that is often included in its name.)

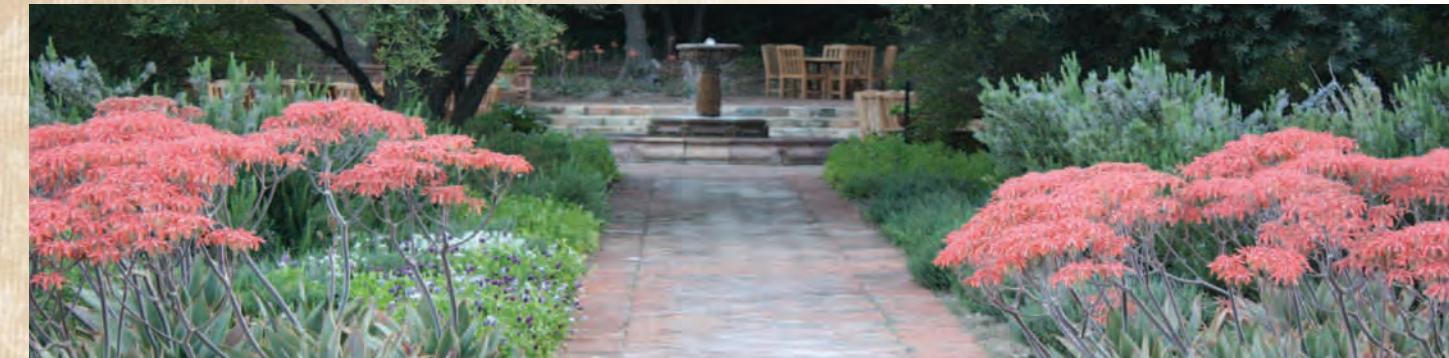


**Left:** *Echeveria 'Neon Breakers'* PPA  
**Below Left:** *Aloe 'Blizzard'* PPA **Below Below-Middle:** *Echeveria 'Crimson Tide'* PPA  
**Below-Right:** *Chamaelobivia 'Rose Quartz'* (Peanut Cactus)



**Above:** *Opuntia subulata cristata 'Three-headed Cerberus'* **Above-Middle:** *Echeveria 'Gorgon's Grotto'* PPA  
**Above-Right:** *Echeveria 'Cloud'*

# Resources Explore



*Aloes in bloom at Rancho La Puerta fitness spa.*

## Radio

**Garden Life Radio Show**  
[www.GardenLife.com/store/radioshow](http://www.GardenLife.com/store/radioshow)

## Web

**The Cactus Collection**  
[www.CactusCollection.com](http://www.CactusCollection.com)

## Organizations

**Cactus and Succulent Society of America**  
[www.CSSAinc.org](http://www.CSSAinc.org)

## Sources

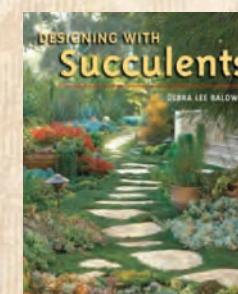
*Many nurseries and garden centers, including national retailers such as Home Depot, Lowes and WalMart, offer succulents.*

**Oasis Water-Efficient Gardens**  
 Escondido, CA  
[www.Oasis-Plants.com](http://www.Oasis-Plants.com)

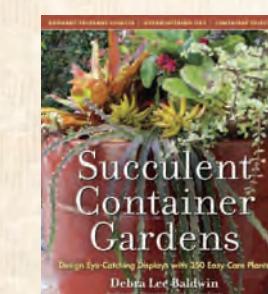
**Waterwise Botanicals**  
 Bonsall, CA  
[www.WaterwiseBotanicals.com](http://www.WaterwiseBotanicals.com)

**Online store:** [www.GardenLife.com](http://www.GardenLife.com)

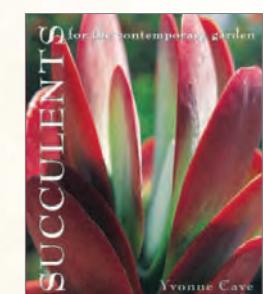
## Books



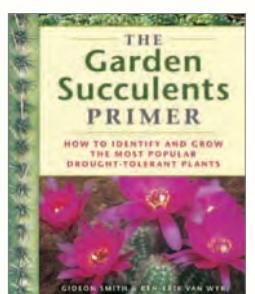
*Designing with Succulents*  
 by Debra Lee Baldwin



*Succulent Container Gardens*  
 by Debra Lee Baldwin



*Succulents for the Contemporary Garden*  
 by Yvonne Cave



*The Garden Succulents Primer*  
 by Gideon Smith & Ben-Erik Van Wyk

## Public gardens with succulent plantings

**Huntington Botanical Gardens**  
 San Marino, CA  
[www.Huntington.org](http://www.Huntington.org)

**LA County Arboretum**  
 Arcadia, CA  
[www.Arboretum.org](http://www.Arboretum.org)

**Ruth Bancroft Garden**  
 Walnut Creek, CA  
[www.RuthBancroftGarden.org](http://www.RuthBancroftGarden.org)

**San Diego Botanic Garden**  
 Encinitas, CA  
[www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org)

**Sherman Library & Gardens**  
 Corona del Mar, CA  
[www.SLGardens.org](http://www.SLGardens.org)

**Water Conservation Garden**  
 El Cajon, CA  
[www.TheGarden.org](http://www.TheGarden.org)



*At Home with Succulents* explains what you need  
to know about plant care, soil and watering,  
offers creative design ideas, and includes an illustrated  
guide to great succulents for your home and garden.

