

History/Origin of Succulents

History

- Originally found in arid and semi-arid regions.
- Succulents grew in environments where no other plant could live/grow.
- Water-storing structures with thick leaves that help them survive in climates that receive sporadic rainfall.

Origin

- Succulents are indigenous to many regions such as Africa, Central, South America and the European Alps.
- They grow in dry desert regions that are arid (Agave types) to dark jungles with high humidity (Christmas cactus types).
- Knowing a succulent's origin helps determine its water/light needs as well as what other succulent varieties would pair well in a mixed arrangement.

Benefits

- Choose varieties with similar needs for a longer lasting arrangement!
 - Types from dry, arid climates prefer completely drying out between thorough watering.
 - Originating from humid, jungle climates prefer more consistent moisture.
 - Known as darlings of the indoor plant scene perfect for your home i.e., kitchen windowsill, coffee table, bookshelf or anywhere with sunlight.
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Containers

- Virtually any container can be used when planting succulents, with or without drainage holes - including terrariums.
- **IMPORTANT:** The container you choose will play a role in how often you will need to water your succulents.

Pots with drainage holes:

- **Porous pots with drainage** (ex. terra cotta) - This pot type is great for new plant parents, especially when it comes to succulents, as the porosity of the pot allows extra moisture to escape, evening out the moisture in the soil. So, if you're heavy with the watering can on occasion, this pot choice may be a good option for you!

- **Non-porous pots with drainage** (ex. ceramic or resin) - The wide array of colors, shapes, and styles of these types of containers make them very attractive, and rightly so! Watering succulents in pots of this type is not complicated. Just remember that the pot is not porous, so there may be a little moisture beneath that top layer of dry-looking soil. To be doubly sure the the soil is completely dry in containers such as this, you can feel the soil at least an inch or so down into the pot to be sure it is dry or use a moisture meter.

Pots without drainage holes (AND Terrariums):

Pots without drainage (any material) -

You may choose a decorative pot without a drainage hole as a **cover pot** for a succulent that is planted in a nursery pot that has drainage. In this case, you can remove the potted succulent from the cover pot when it is time to water, allow it to drain completely, then place it back in the decorative cover pot. Easy!

OR

- You may choose to **plant directly** into a container that does not have a drainage hole. Whether you are planting directly into a pot with no drainage hole or a terrarium, you'll want to **water VERY carefully**. The goal is to prevent too much water from accumulating at the bottom of the container due to overwatering. We recommend watering close to the rootzones of succulents planted in containers with no drainage holes or terrariums.

TIP: When planting directly into a container with no drainage hole, consider adding a layer of small gravel at the bottom of the container so that any extra water left after watering will not accumulate near plant roots!

Planting Media

- **It is very important** to use a well-draining soil mixture when planting succulents as a soil that retains too much moisture may encourage root rot.
- We recommend **Espoma Organic Cactus Mix** as it is specially blended to provide optimum aeration and drainage AND promote root growth. It is good for all cacti and succulents.
- If you are interested in making your own cactus soil, many recommendations can be found online. You can try searching Google for "cactus soil recipe."

Types of Succulents

There are many different types of succulents to choose from!

Here are just a few of the types we offer that will lend various shapes, forms, and textures to your mixed succulent arrangement.

Rosette -

- Sempervivum (Hens and Chicks)
- Echeveria (Also referred to as Hens and Chicks)
- Haworthia (Zebra Plant)
- Aloe

Branched -

- Crassula ovata (Traditional Jade and Gollum Jade)

Mounded or Round -

- Cacti (Various)

Upright -

- Euphorbia (African Milk Tree)
- Cacti (Various)

How to Arrange

Step 1:

Choose your container. Helpful questions when choosing a container: What placement will the planting have? A table centerpiece? A windowsill?

Step 2:

Mix and match a variety of forms, colors and sizes of succulents to suit the size of your container.

Ex. 2 rosette, 1 branched (1 Aloe, 1 Echeveria, 1 Jade)

Ex. 1 rosette, 1 branched, 1 upright, 1 mounded (1 Haworthia, 1 Jade, 1 Euphorbia, 1 Cactus)

Step 2:

Arrange and plant!

Step 3 (optional):

Add decorative soil toppers such as preserved moss or stone for a finished look.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all today.

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