



Cactus & Succulent Care

Information provided by Little Red Nursery
4006 34th Street ~ Lubbock TX 79410
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Cactus and succulents are easy care plants for any home or patio. They are able to store water in the fleshy tissues of their stems, roots and leaves. They also have distinctive features that help reduce water loss.

GENERAL CACTI & SUCCULENT CARE TIPS

- Cacti and succulents thrive in containers, and because most are slow growing, they do not need to be repotted very often.
- This makes it easy to bring them in for the winter if they are not a cold-hardy variety.
- Containers must have drainage for optimum results.
- Always use cactus/succulent soil or amend soil for good drainage.
- Control the temperature. Many won't mind temps as low as 50 to 55 degrees, but few will tolerate colder.



WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Overwatering is the most common killer of cacti and succulents. A moisture meter is the best way to gauge how dry or wet the soil is. If in doubt, don't water!
- When actively growing in spring and summer, succulents need a little more water. Water every 1-2 weeks, depending on how hot it is. In summer, when the temperatures are over 90 degrees, reduce watering to every two weeks. Plants go dormant when the temperature is too high and can survive on the water they have stored.
- In late fall and winter, reduce watering to once every 3-4 weeks. Your plants will thank you for it. Depending on variety, some even less! It's important to know your plants!

FERTILIZER

- Plants are hungry in Spring and Summer when they are actively growing.
- Use a fertilizer specifically made for cactus and succulents.
- If your plants are looking a little stunted, they could be craving nitrogen and should be fertilized.



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SUCCULENTS

Succulents are usually less demanding of a careful watering schedule than cacti. Succulents do not necessarily become dormant during the winter. Certain succulents are more active in their growth during the winter as opposed to summer. Therefore, the most general rule of watering succulents is to water the plants thoroughly until water drains out the bottom of the pot. Then routinely observe the top layer of soil - when the soil starts to become dry, thoroughly water your plant again. There are many variables that factor into proper watering of any plant: time of year, temperature, humidity, placement, growing container, soil and type of plant. Get to know your plant!

CACTI

Most cacti actively grow during the long, hot summer months and tend to become dormant during the short days of winter. Therefore, it is important that you recognize when your plants are actively growing. This can be difficult since cacti tend to grow at such a slow rate; during the time between early spring and late fall, most of these plants are in a growth stage. During this time, water the plants whenever the soil becomes dry. Do not extend this dry period for too long or your plants will begin to suffer from lack of moisture. Only during their dormant periods will cacti be able to successfully withstand long periods without water.

When the soil is sufficiently dry, water the plant thoroughly. Be sure that excess water drains from the hole in the bottom of the pot and that the soil is completely saturated. Never water cacti by giving minimal amounts of water. It is incorrect that you should try and duplicate desert conditions in order to grow cacti. Most of these methods often lead to failure. Repeat this watering procedure when the soil once again becomes thoroughly dry. During the winter months when cacti often become dormant, it is advisable to water much less frequently: two to three times less often than during the summer. Most people attempting to grow cacti suffer the greatest amount of plant losses during the winter, usually the direct result of incorrect watering techniques. Get to know your plant!

