Succulent Gardening

Succulent Seasons

Succulent Soil

Indoor Succulent Care
Optimal growing for indoor succulents.

Outdoor Succulent Care
From planters to landscapes to rocky soil & crevices grow healthy succulents outside.

Succulent Feeding
Watering & fertilizing succulents.

Succulent Design
Interior & exterior design options.

Succulent Propogation
Soil & water propagation methods.

Troubleshooting
Spotting problems, organic & natural remedies.

Printable Plant Tracking

Succulent Resources
Additional resources to assist you.

About Kellogg Garden Organics
Cultivating A Succulent Garden

Succulents are eye-catching plants that boast magnificent foliage. They store water in their thick, shapely leaves, making them drought-tolerant and relatively self-sufficient plantings.

One of the most appealing aspects of succulent plants, other than their easy maintenance, is that they can be found in a wide array of shapes, textures, colors, and heights.

You can grow succulents just about anywhere in the ground, in pots, tucked away in unexpected planting spots, and in creative interior and exterior designs.

Take the guesswork out of caring for these great conversation pieces with spectacular foliage by using our succulent guide to successfully grow healthy, beautiful succulents now and in the years ahead.
Organic Gardening: Caring For Succulents

Succulents can be grown indoors as houseplants, planted outside in containers, or planted in-ground in garden beds or stone crevices. No matter where you choose to plant them, they are sure to draw attention.

With the right planting considerations and care, succulents can almost take care of themselves. Proper sun, water, and the optimal soil environment will make or break your succulent growing efforts.

Succulent Considerations:

- Ideal Soil and pH
- Proper Sunlight
- Optimal Temperatures
- Amount and Frequency of Watering
- Fertilizing your Succulents
- Pests and Disease Prevention
Succulents grow at different rates throughout the year depending on the temperature. When a succulent goes into dormancy, it is often stimulated by extreme changes in environmental conditions. Some succulents can tolerate frost and even snow while others can grow in extreme heat, however, most succulents thrive in mild temperatures. Succulents will also minimize growth activity to conserve energy until the environmental conditions are more ideal.

Succulents are often categorized as summer growers or winter growers but there are no absolutes in the plant world. Succulents are industrious plants and in many cases very adaptable. For succulents grown indoors, they will most likely never go dormant and you can continue to water them on the same schedule all year round.

A succulent in a rest period will stop producing new growth completely, the leaves might turn yellow/brown and either drop or hang limply off the sides of the succulent stem. In some rosette succulent species, the rosettes might contract.
Organic Gardening:

Summer Succulents

Succulents that are dormant in the winter will actively grow in spring, summer, and fall. As temperatures drop below 40°F plant growth slows down drastically, and though they are summer growers during the hottest days of summer, they will slow down their growth.

When a summer growing succulent starts its dormant period in the winter, it doesn’t need a lot of water. If you notice the leaves becoming dry and wrinkled you can give them a drink. Otherwise, in most cases, you can leave the succulent alone until its growing season comes around again.

Summer Growers - Winter Dormant:

- Adenia
- Adenium
- Agave
- Alluaudia
- Brachystelma
- Bursera
- Calibanus
- Creopegia
- Cissus
- Cyphostemma
- Didieria
- Dorstenia
- Echeveria
- Encephalartos
- Euphorbia
- Ficus
- Fockea
- Huernia
- Illbervillea
- Ipomoea
- Jathropha
- Lithops
- Monadenium
- Moringa
- Operculicarya
- Pachypodium
- Pedilanthus
- Plumeria
- Pseudolithos
- Pterodiscu
- Raphinonacme
- Siningia
- Stapelianthus
- Synadenium
- Tillandsia
- Trichocaulon
- Trichodiadema
- Xerosicyos
“Winter growing” succulents are the most active during fall, winter, and spring—once nighttime temperatures drop below 60°F. These succulents go dormant in the heat of summer, they need to be protected from heat and still need to be watered at this time to keep their roots cool.

Though these succulents are referred to as winter growers in the coldest days of winter, they will go through a mini dormancy and slow their growth.
Organic Gardening:

Popular Succulents To Grow

Hens and Chicks:

One of the most prized succulent plants in many gardens is *Sempervivum*, more whimsically known as **hens and chicks plants**. They get their name from the family of clustering plants that are formed as they grow.

There is traditionally a larger, visually appealing mother plant with several smaller offshoots that surround it.

These tidy, bright rosettes of foliage are low maintenance plants that can be grown outdoors, both in-ground or in container gardens, and can also make lovely houseplants.
Organic Gardening:  

Popular Succulents To Grow

Donkey's Tail:

Burro’s tail: *(Sedum morganianum)* Also answering to the common names of Donkey’s Tail or Horse’s Tail, Burro’s Tail is a low-maintenance, slow-growing succulent with tails that grow up to 4 foot in length.

The light green leaves overlap, forming a kind of braided “tail” that, over time, can get quite heavy, so be sure to plant it in a sturdy pot or hanging basket that won’t fall over.

The plump leaves of Burro’s Tail can fall off easily when it’s being planted or moved — take extra care to perform these tasks gently.
Organic Gardening:

Succulent Soil

The success of growing succulents is directly contingent on the soil in which it is planted. Succulents have shallow root systems and prefer drought-like growing conditions. This makes them an attractive, low-maintenance plant choice, as long as you get a few environmental factors just right from the start.

Proper soil, drainage, fertilizer, and watering requirements are essential to a succulent plant's ability to flourish. We will explore the best succulent soil so you can provide the optimal medium for your treasured succulents to grow in.

Succulent Soil Needs:

- Succulents have shallow root systems and prefer soil that well-draining.
- A loose, rocky soil that is nutrient-rich is optimal.
- If planting in containers, use a potting mix specifically formulated for succulents and cacti and plant in a pot with holes in the bottom for drainage.
- Alkaline soil has the potential to cause the demise of succulent plants.
- You can amend soil with compost, perlite, pumice, decomposed granite, and sand.
Indoor Succulent Care

Planting succulents in the optimal soil composition will boost the health of the plant and is the first step in properly caring for succulents indoors. Most indoor succulent varieties thrive with ideal indoor nighttime temperatures of at least 60°F - 65°F.

When caring for succulents indoors, it is crucial to ensure that they receive at least 6 hours of sunshine per day. Too little sunlight will cause succulents to reach awkwardly for sunlight, resulting in spindly, blanched, and unbalanced plants.

Indoor Succulent Essentials:

- In place of sunlight, using grow lights for 12 to 14 hours per day will strongly help your plant's development and survival.
- Good drainage is essential for your succulents to grow well. This requires the right soil but also that there is a hole in the bottom of your container.
- Watering regularly keeps the roots plump and leaves full of water for your succulents. However, watering too much can kill the plant. Keep your plants on the drier side; water a small amount, let it drain through, wait a week or so, check to see if there’s any moisture left, then repeat the process.
Popular Variegated Succulents

What are Variegated Succulents?

Whenever you see a green leaf, that’s chlorophyll — and when you see different shades of green, white, or yellow edges or markings, that means that the chlorophyll is less concentrated in those areas than it is in the green parts of the leaf. When chlorophyll — and other pigments — are unevenly distributed, it creates variegation.

When leaves have green and have other colors (pink, purple, orange, for example), what you’re seeing is additional pigments like carotenoid or anthocyanin in addition to the chlorophyll. These other pigment colors have taken over and are stronger.

- Haworthia Limifolias (right)
- Aeonium Sunburst (bottom left)
- Haworthia Retusa (bottom right)
Organic Gardening:

Popular Unique Succulents

Succulents With Pizzazz

**Dolphin** (Senecio peregrinus) Sometimes you’re just in the mood for a 6” tall succulent that looks like dolphins jumping out of the water. We know. It’s adorable. And guess what? Pretty easy to grow too.

**Crystal** (Haworthia obtusa) This slow-growing and easy-to-care-for succulent grows up to 6” tall with rosettes in dense clumps. The rosettes have bright green, plump leaves that look like molded glass and 8” tall pale pink flower spikes.

**Split Rock** (Pleiospilos nelii) These tiny succulents grow to a bit over 3” tall and 4” wide with stemless, opposing plump leaves. It produces a new pair of leaves each year, “splitting” up from the center of the previous growth. Its alien-looking flower is a daisylike yellow-orange color and grows up to 3” in diameter. These flowers are quite large in proportion to the actual plant, opening in the afternoon and closing at sunset.
Organic Gardening: Finding Your Gardening Zone

Identifying your plant hardiness zone is essential to the success of your succulent garden. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map provides an informative view of average temperature trends across The United States and Canada. Zone Hardiness maps are based on the average yearly extremes for minimum temperatures in a given area.

CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR ZONE.

The USDA Zone Hardiness Map is divided up into 13 planting zones. They are sectioned off by a 10-degree Fahrenheit differential for the average annual minimum temperatures. The larger the number is, the warmer the temperature is in the corresponding garden zone. For added clarity, zones are broken down into subsets of a and b, which represents a 5-degree differential in which a is colder than b is.

The majority of the United States falls under USDA Planting Zones 4 through 8. Most garden centers label their plants with markers that signify a plant's grow zone. Understanding your gardening zone for plant hardiness can help you decide which plants to select for your garden and can mean the difference between a successful crop and a failing garden.
Outdoor Succulent Care

Succulents store water in their thick, uniquely shaped leaves, making them drought-tolerant plants. Succulents come in a wide array of interesting shapes and textures, which add visual interest to any landscape.

A common question is can succulents live outside? The short answer is yes! They thrive in sunny locations with warm, dry climates and can tolerate some neglect. So growing succulents outdoors is a great option.

Outdoor Succulent Tips:

- Hardy succulent varieties can be overwintered in their containers or in-ground as long as the soil remains well-drained and there is some protection from harsh conditions and extreme dips in temperature.
- For more tender succulent varieties it is best to bring them indoors during the winter months and place them in a sunny window. You can also place them under indoor grow lights to assist their growth through the chilly days of winter.
- Reduce watering during fall and winter months so that succulents can survive cold temperatures.
- During the growing season, water more deeply, but less frequently.
Organic Gardening: Watering Succulents

When we talk about how to care for succulents, one of the most monumental errors that people make is overwatering them. Drenching and constant root saturation cause root rot, which will cause the plant to die.

Use these helpful tidbits to guide you on how to care for succulents when watering them.

Succulent Watering Tips:

- Succulents should be watered deeply but not frequently.
- Water indoor succulents once per week.
- If using a saucer underneath indoor plants, empty any water that has drained into it. This ensures that roots will not remain wet.
- Allow soil to dry out between waterings.
- For outdoor plants, test the soil with your fingers and only water if the soil is dry.
- Reduce watering during fall and winter months so that succulents can survive cold temperatures. Saturated soil makes succulents more vulnerable to frost damage during the winter months.
Echevaria ‘Perle von Nurnberg’

The leaves are rosettes that have a gray-brown tinged with deep pink or purple coloring, but when this one blooms — holy cow! Footlong stems with bright coral flowers create some of the most stunning succulent blooms around, brightening up container plantings and rock gardens.

Give it full to partial sun, well-drained soil, and occasional water. USDA Hardiness Zones 9-11 (zones below 9 can grow it as an annual or simply give it winter protection).
Unique Blooming Succulents

Kalanchoe Delagoensis:

Refer to this plant as “chandelier plant” and most succulent-lovers will know what you’re talking about. Tubular, grey-green leaves have dark purple blotches and hanging, trumpet-shaped flowers in bright red to orange. It’s so unusual and dramatic that many people believe it’s worth a bit of risk, as it can be invasive if not kept under control and contains toxins that can cause digestive issues to animals.

It prefers full sun to partial shade, well-drained soil, and occasional water. USDA Hardiness Zones 10-11.
Fertilizing Succulents

Many succulent varieties will never require fertilization, and they will still have healthy and consistent growth. However, applying fertilizer will help your succulent soil reach its fullest potential, encouraging more vibrant foliage and more prolific blooms. A high-quality organic fertilizer will improve the overall health and longevity of your succulent plants.

Seek out a fertilizer that is specifically formulated for succulents and cactus plants. The fertilizer should be low in nitrogen and include beneficial soil microbes. Since succulent plants are not continuously soaking up water from the soil, select a slow-release formula that will feed the succulent plant whenever it needs nourishment. Diluting your fertilizer can also prevent any issues with burning.

Container & Indoor Succulent Considerations:

- Like most containerized plants, some succulents can benefit from a nutrient-rich feeding routine.
- For optimal growth, apply the fertilizer in spring as new growth emerges and once again in fall.
- When growing succulents indoors, fertilizer can result in rapid growth, which can cause plants that aren’t getting sufficient light to stretch in search of it. Consider temporarily moving your succulent plants outdoors to a partial sun spot just after fertilizing to help them retain their robust, compact nature as they soak in the beneficial nutrients.
Organic Gardening: Succulent Planter Ideas

The sky’s the limit with succulent designs. Succulents are hardy, resilient and can grow on or in just about any medium for a short period of time. So why not take your love of succulents and double it by creating works of art?

Creative Succulent Design Ideas:

- **A double or triple-tiered concrete birdbath** – fill the tiers with cactus soil and plant with succulents.
- **Pumpkins** — hot glue a layer of moss on top of the pumpkin, then hot glue (yes, you read that correctly) small succulent clippings onto the moss. The succulents root into the moss and thrive with occasional misting from a water bottle.
- **Wreath** - twine branches, hot glue moss, and add small succulent cuttings to branches.
- **Driftwood from your beach vacay** — attach succulents to your driftwood the same way you would the pumpkin.
Organic Gardening:

Succulent Planter Ideas

There are designs that showcase succulents as large living art displays, with full walls and even buildings covered with succulents. While some of these art pieces are professional installations, there are many that are perfectly doable for the handy DIYer — and we have a feeling that’s you.

Creative Succulent Design Ideas:

- **Picture frames** — Staple hardware cloth into the back of the frame (where the glass would normally go), then attach a cedar shadowbox to the back of the frame. Turn over, add soil through the hardware cloth and into the shadow box, then place stems of succulent clippings through the openings of the hardware cloth.

- **Pot in a pot** — this one is just adorable. Take a large round container, fill it will cactus soil, then nestle a tiny terra cotta pot on its side into the soil. Finish by planting a variety of succulents out of the “top” of the smaller pot — it looks like a silhouette of a planter within a planter.

- **Sand** — simply nestle your succulent clippings in the sand for a super easy display with other trinkets like pebbles or beach glass.
Succulent Landscape Ideas

If you live in a warm climate year-round, you may want to plant your succulents in your garden bed directly. When planting succulents in-ground, always provide them with well-draining soil to ward off root rot. In-ground doesn’t always translate to in the garden bed. You’ll often find succulent plants uniquely tucked into cracks and crevices.

Add succulents in unlikely spots:
- Stone walls
- Nestled between patio pavers
- As visual interest accents in rock gardens

Succulent Varieties:

- ‘Sedums’ are a perennial succulent favorite and are hardy enough to be planted in-ground and go through a winter months dormancy period, growing back bigger and self-propagating in other spots in the garden for the next year.
- ‘Hens and Chicks’ are cold-hardy and can survive some of the coldest winters. These cold-hardy succulents perform well year-round when planted in the ground outdoors.
- ‘Echeveria’ is easy to care for outdoors and thrives particularly well in containers or warm and friendly garden beds.
- ‘Agave’ can be grown outdoors year-round but require frost protection if cold weather threatens. Agave plants thrive in full sun to partial shade.
- ‘Graptopetalum’ thrives in full sun with light shade. They produce florets of plump leaves and are extremely drought tolerant. Well-draining soil is a must for these showstoppers.
Organic Gardening:

Propagating Succulent Cuttings

Once you start growing succulents, like us, you may become a wee bit obsessed with them. There are so many varieties with mind-boggling shapes, intense colors, and amazing textures. You will love them in containers, in the ground, in open terrariums, nestled in rocks...the only drawback to a love of succulents is that it can also be a bit expensive to get as many as you want.

That’s where propagating comes in handy — taking one succulent plant and getting (in some cases) dozens more from it. And if you’re the least bit intimidated by this process, please don’t be. Succulents make it easy, as long as you know some basic methods.

3 Succulents Great for Propagating:

- **Crassula ovata**: You probably know this one as “jade plant,” and it’s extremely easy to propagate from stem cuttings.
- **Sedum morganianum**: Also called “Burro’s Tail,” it has plump leaves that trail down the edge of a container. Use the leaf propagation method below to create lots of lil’ Burro’s Tail babies.
- **Sempervivum tectorum**: also known as “Hens and Chicks” this succulent features a main plant that produces little chick offspring which are very easily propagated by division.
3 Basic Methods of Propagating Succulents:

- **Leaves:** A single leaf can grow into an entirely new plant! Gently twist the leaf off a stem (or use one that fell off on its own), being careful to use only healthy leaves without tears, damage, or disease. Set the leaves aside in a dish in a single layer out of direct sunlight for a couple of days until the previously attached edge has calloused over. Once the edges are dry, lay them on top of cactus soil in an area of bright, indirect light, then lightly mist with a spray bottle filled with water to encourage roots to form. Do this every couple of days, and in a few weeks (maybe months for some), a new little succulent baby will form — ready for planting!

- **Stems:** Cut a length of stem from an existing succulent and remove lower leaves. Let it sit for a couple of days allowing the cut end to dry, then plant it in fresh cactus soil and lightly mist to encourage roots. Or, if you have a stem already in soil with the top part of the plant cut off for propagating, go ahead and cut that stem just above the soil line, and new growth will appear from there.

- **Divisions:** Divisions are quite easy — some succulents have a “mother plant” with offsets or babies that develop around the base of the original plant. Carefully separate the offset from the mother, gently loosening the roots. Then replant in cactus soil and lightly water. Other succulents develop offsets from stems — you'll see a stem with a baby succulent protruding from the mother. Simply cut it off, leaving a bit of stem, and replant.
Succulent Water Propagation

Succulent plants can make a dent in your budget, as they can be quite expensive to purchase. Propagating succulents is an exciting additional benefit to their unique beauty and easy succulent care routines.

Creating new plants from cutting by propagating succulents in water costs nothing, is relatively easy to do, and can be a fantastic way of growing your collection of succulent plants. It also makes it easy to share your new plants with friends and family, spreading succulent joy.

Tools & Materials:

- Clean and sharp pruning shears or a sharp knife
- Clear glass jar
- Distilled water or rainwater
- A mature succulent plant
- Cactus and succulent soil mix (optional for secondary planting)
- Small pots with drainage holes (optional for secondary planting)
Locate a healthy growth or an offshoot on your succulent plant. With your pruning shears, make a quick, clean cut through the base of the desired stem. Remove the severed piece from the mother plant. This is your cutting. Remove lower leaves if present on the succulent branch so that one to two inches of the stem is cleared away above the cut. Allow cuttings to callous for a couple of days. This is an essential step because otherwise, the cutting will retain too much water and may rot instead of rooting. Place the calloused end of the cutting in a glass jar with the end only slightly submerged in a jar of distilled water or rainwater. Do not use treated tap water, as chemical additives can inhibit the rooting process. If the succulent cutting is very small, you can cover the jar or glass with plastic wrap and poke holes in the surface and stick the tiny stems through it to hold them in place. Place the water jar in a spot with lots of indirect sunlight. Use a transparent glass jar so you can watch for rooting, water levels, and water clarity. Place the container in a bright spot but away from direct sunlight and wait for roots to develop. Change water every couple of days so that algae doesn’t grow and water doesn’t get cloudy. Once roots start to grow after three to four weeks, they should be moved to a spot with more direct sunlight. It can take up to 6 weeks for some roots to emerge.
Organic Gardening: Succulent Pests & Disease

As self-reliant as succulents are, they can be prone to some pests and diseases. Listed below are some of the problems that might afflict succulents and some organic remedies for warding them off.

Remember that the best defense is a robust offense. This starts with having healthy soil and ideal planting conditions.

- **Mealy Bugs** – remove the plant from the pot, clean the pot, and wipe down the plant. Replant the succulent in fresh soil.
- **Rodents** – set up rodent traps near succulent plants outside to keep them from nibbling on your succulent leaves.
- **Red Spider Mites** – Use a sharp spray of the hose to remove them from the foliage.
- **Aphids** – use a quick spray of the hose to remove them from the foliage—spray the foliage with soapy water.
- **Snails** – In the garden, bury a shallow dish so that the dish’s rim is level with the soil. Add beer to the plate. Snails will seek out the beer and will be unable to free themselves.
- **Root Rot** – Allow soil to dry completely before watering and ensure that soil is well-draining.
When a plant needs something, it will always tell you - the trick is knowing how to read their signs. Here are few signs to look out for that can help you spot problems before they become irreversible.

**Brown Spotting**
Too Much Water, Sunburn, Fungus, or Pest.

**Yellowing**
Overwatering or Too Much Sun

**Leggy & Leaning**
Not Enough Light

**Shrivelng**
Not Enough Water
## Organic Gardening: Succulent Tracking

### Plant

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### Observations

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### Notes

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### Succulent Calendar

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Organic Gardening:

Resources:

How to Find Your Planting Zone
How to Amend Soil for a Healthier Garden
Best Pots & Planters For Container Gardening

Gardener’s Guide To Succulent Care
Can Succulents Live Outside?
Growing and Caring for Succulents Indoors
How Often to Water Succulents
Best Soil for Succulents

Propagating Succulents in Water: Tips & Tricks
How To Plant Succulent Cuttings

5 Flowering Succulents to Add to Your Garden
Top 3 Hanging Succulents to Add to Your Collection
5 Exotic Succulents and How to Care for Them
5 Variegated Succulents to Grow in Your Garden
7 Succulent Varieties and Unique Ways to Plant Them
Hens And Chicks Plants: Care, Tips & More

Landscape Garden Designs for a Potager Garden
Balcony Garden Ideas For Small Space
Apartment Gardening

Social Media:
Instagram
Youtube
Facebook
Organic Garden Nation
Facebook Group
Organic Gardening:

Gardening Guides & Charts:

Additional Guides:

Guides for Children:
Kellogg Garden Products, family-owned and operated since its establishment in 1925 by our founder, H. Clay Kellogg, now spans four generations. The company continues its success as a steadfast business, guided by Mr. Kellogg’s original core values: innovation, loyalty, experience, commitment, and generosity.

These values have led our company to seek the highest level of organic rigor in all its branded products.

In 2012, Kellogg Garden Products committed to strictly follow the USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP) guidelines for manufacturing all Kellogg Garden Organics and G&B Organics branded soils and fertilizers.

Every ingredient and every process used to produce our branded products has been verified 100% compliant as organic, all the way back to the source, meeting all federal guidelines.

All our branded products are approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's stringent Organic Input Materials (OIM) program, as well as the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) — the leading independent review agency accredited by the USDA NOP.

Kellogg is still the first and only manufacturer to have all our branded organic soils and fertilizers OIM approved and OMRI Listed, making Kellogg the first to offer Proven Organic soils and fertilizers that build life in the soil. Since 1925, we continue to strive to be the leading organic source helping people grow beautiful and healthy gardens – organically.