

Succulents How To: The Greening of Your Thumb

Right Plant in the Right Place = Happy Plants

**I. Know Your Plant (KYP)**

Know where the plant lived in Nature.

- A. Desert - Arid /dry
- B. Lowlands - Seasons

II. Desirable Growing Conditions**A. Soil**

- 1. Light soil with good drainage (Packaged cactus/succulent/palm mix)
- 2. Can add pumice and/or Lava fines to plants that need more drainage (KYP)

B. Light Know your Space (KYS) and (KYP)

- 1. *Full sun* – 6 hours of sun or bright light. Morning sun best. Avoid direct hot afternoon sun
- 2. *Part shade* – Protected from direct sun. Dappled shade.

C. Temperature

(KYP)

- 1. Most Succulents enjoy protection in cold weather. (Below 40 degrees)
 - a. Bring indoors at night.
 - b. Frost cloth at night or may remain for a period of time.
 - c. In areas with consistent freezing temperatures, it is advisable to keep containers indoors near a bright window.

D. Water

(KYP)

- 1. Overwatering is the biggest killer of plants.
- 2. Summer – Succulents need to dry out before each watering. Use pencil poked in soil to test. (Soil adheres if moist)
- 3. Winter – Water sparingly

E. Food

(KYP)

1. Use food designated for Cacti and Succulents
2. Read label

F. Containers

1. Container Types
 - a. Plastic – holds moisture
 - b. Clay – allows moisture to escape
 - c. Ceramic – holds moisture
2. Determines watering schedule
3. Drainage hole at bottom is necessary for drainage.

III. Propagation

A. Seeds

1. Takes a long time
2. Difficult

B. Leaves

1. Not as long as seeds
2. Easy to do

C. Cuttings

1. Fastest
2. Easiest

IV. Diseases/Problems

A. Mealy, Spider mites, scale – identify

1. Spray with Insecticidal soap or Neem oil
2. Systemic – local nursery

B. Mold from overwatering

1. Dry out almost completely or repot