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

Should you need assistance, or, require accommodations for any physical challenge, please call 530-621-5502.

The University of California working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture.
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