

## GENERAL SUCCULENT CARE

Most succulents require similar care from one to the other. Their care requirements are outlined on this care sheet. However, as this is an overview, keep in mind that there are some succulents whose care differs from the consideration listed below. Care instructions are available at many online sites.

### **Light**

Succulents prefer bright light. The plant will tell you if it is getting the right amount of light. Too much and the leaves may scorch and turn brown, yellow, or white. Too little light and the plant will start to stretch and the leaves will become more spaced out, as it is trying to reach more light.

### **Temperature**

Succulents are much more cold-tolerant than you might think. In the desert, there is often a marked contrast between night and day. Succulents thrive in colder nights, getting down as low as 40°F. However most of them don't like frost. Succulents ideally like daytime temperatures between 70°F and about 85°F and night time temperatures near 50°F.

### **Soil**

Succulents should be potted in a fast-draining soil mixture. There are commercial mixes available which are designed for succulents, but a homemade mix of gravel, small rocks, and sand is great.

### **Water**

If your plants live outside you probably won't need to ever water them. If you are experiencing extreme drought and the plants have stopped growing and are beginning to shed leaves then you will need to water them. Indoor potted succulents should be watered generously in the summer, allowing the potting mix to dry between watering. During the winter, when the plants go dormant, cut watering back to once or twice every month. Overwatering causes root rot which is the single most common cause of plant failure.

Overwatered plants are soft and discolored. The leaves may be yellow or white and lose their color. A plant in this condition may be beyond repair, but you can still remove it from its pot and inspect the roots. If they are brown and rotted, cut away dead roots and repot into drier potting media, or take a cutting and propagate the parent plant.

Succulents prefer generous water during the growing season (spring and summer). An under-watered plant will first stop growing, then begin to shed leaves. Alternatively, the plant may develop brown spots on the leaves.

An overwatered succulent might at first plump up and look healthy. However, the cause of death may have already set in, as the rot spreads upward from the root system. A succulent should never be allowed to sit in water.