

Plant Parenthood: Succulent Edition

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Congratulations on becoming a proud plant parent! As you embark on this green journey with your newly potted succulent, we're thrilled to provide you with this general guide to ensure your new friend thrives and flourishes in your care.

5 different Genera of Succulents

- Echeveria
- Aeonium
- Senecio
- Cactus
- Crassula

Sunlight: Brighten Their World

- When we think of cacti and succulents, we usually think of desert plants that require intense heat and bright sun. However, most succulents do not thrive very well under blasting full sun exposure and extremely hot temperatures. Here are a few things to keep in mind when deciding where to place your plant:
 - **Light Intensity:** Opt for a spot that receives bright, indirect sunlight. Avoid intense, direct sunlight during the early stages.
 - **Morning Magic:** Morning sun is gentler and preferable for your baby succulent's delicate leaves.
 - **Gradual Exposure:** Start with partial sun exposure, gradually increasing the duration over time.
 - **Shade Support:** Offer protection from harsh afternoon sun using taller plants or temporary shade.
 - **Daily Check:** Regularly observe how your baby succulent responds to its light environment.

- **Sun Signs:** Look for color changes, stretching, or signs of stress as indicators of sunlight suitability.

Water: Quench The Thirst

- Watering succulents can be intimidating, especially for new plant parents. But fear not – you're about to become a watering wizard for your baby succulent! Here are some easy-to-follow tips that will help you conquer the art of hydration and keep your succulent thriving:
 - **Soil Check:** Before watering, ensure the top inch of the soil is dry to the touch. Stick your finger in the soil if unsure.
 - **Less is More:** Baby succulents prefer less water. Overwatering* can lead to root rot.
 - **Deep Soak:** When watering, ensure the soil is thoroughly moistened and draining nicely.
 - **No Standing Water:** Empty the water that collects in the saucer to help prevent root rot.
 - **Avoid Leaves:** Water the soil directly; avoid wetting the leaves to prevent rot or mold.
 - **Adapt to Seasons:** Adjust watering frequency based on the season; succulents need less water in winter.

*** Overwatering is how often you water, not how much***

Rotation: Give Your Plants A Spin

- Rotate your plant regularly. Rotating succulents allows them to get light on all sides. Not only does this keep them healthy, but it has an aesthetic advantage as well. Most succulents tend to bend towards the sun, so turning it will help it stay upright.

Cleaning: No More Dust and Bugs

- Keep your plants clean from dirt and bugs. All succulent plants can gather dust, so wipe their leaves with a damp cloth periodically. You can also use a soft brush like a paint brush or makeup brush. A layer of dust on the foliage will block sunlight and reduce the plant's ability to photosynthesize, which is ultimately how the plant feeds itself. A clean plant that's photosynthesizing at optimal levels will be a healthy plant, and in-turn more resistant to diseases and pest infestations.

Repotting: New Digs, Fresh Beginnings

- Eventually, your succulent will need to be repotted to ensure its proper growth. If you aren't sure whether or not your succulent needs to be repotted, check for the following things:
 - **Root check:** Look at the bottom of your pot and see if there are roots growing out the pot's drainage holes. If yes, then its time!

- **Soil dries out too fast:** When you water your succulent, do you notice that the soil is bone dry again within a couple of hours? This is a sign that your potting medium is no longer good and it's time to repot.
- **Outgrown its pot:** If your succulent looks like it's outgrowing the current pot that it's in, do it a tremendous favor and re-pot it. Succulents need room to grow! Not too much room though...
- **Materials:**
 - Planter with holes
 - Succulent soil mix
 - Bare root plant
- **Steps:**
 - 1. Gently remove your succulent from its pot
 - 2. Loosen the roots; remove any dead roots and dirt stuck to the succulent
 - 3. Fill your new pot 3/4 of the way with succulent soil
 - 4. Dig a shallow hole for the roots and cover them in soil. Add soil until it reaches the base of your succulent
 - 5. Cover the top with pebbles to keep the soil from moving around

Propagation: Growing Together

- Propagating succulents is a simple process that can be done year-round. The best results are achieved during the spring and summer months when succulents are actively growing.
- Propagating from leaves:
 - 1. Locate a nice plump leaf on the plant. Take it between your fingers and gently twist till it comes off.
 - 2. Place the leaves in a warm, dry place out of direct sunlight so they can dry and callus. You'll know the leaf has callused when the original cut appears sealed and dry. This can take a few days.
 - 3. Move the calloused leaves on a tray or pot with succulent soil. Do not plant your calloused leaves. Instead, lay them on top of the soil and gently press without burying them.
 - 4. Leave until they produce roots. Mist or lightly water the calloused leaves to encourage growth. Let the cuttings form a new rosette or new leaves.

*** Keep in mind that the process can be extremely slow and not all propagations will be successful! and that's okay ***

Your Succulent Care Guide

Whether you're a succulent enthusiast or a newcomer to the green scene, this zine is your ultimate companion on the journey to nurturing beautiful, thriving succulents. Get guidance on everything you need to know about caring for your succulents. From decoding sunlight needs to mastering the art of watering, each page is packed with tips that will transform you into a confident and nurturing plant parent.