



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Planting Succulent Combos

Succulents and cacti are known for their go-with-the-flow nature and colorful, intriguing foliage. These desert-dwelling plants are not only easy to take care of, but are also fun to plant together. The Garden Guru, Mike Westphal, takes us through the steps for creating a variety of succulent combinations.

SUCCULENT CONTAINER CARE

Light – Succulents are sun-loving plants! Their natural environment is usually a desert or very sandy, rocky, and sunny locations. To properly care for succulents, you will need to give them as much light as possible, regardless if they are outdoor or indoor plants.

- When bringing your indoor succulent arrangements outdoors for the spring and summer months in your area, make sure you ease them into full sun so you do not burn them.
- If you are worried about not having enough light in your indoor space, you can always use grow lights to supplement the full sun that succulents need to thrive. For more information on grow lights, see Mike, the Garden Gurus seminar on them [here](#).

Soil – Succulents prefer a well-draining soil medium in containers. This mimics their natural environment. Whether you are containing indoor or outdoor succulents, you may need to consider what soil you are using.

- **For Indoor:** Use a soil formulated specifically to cacti and succulents or, if you want to make your own mix, use well draining additives such as gravel, sand, and bark with an all-purpose potting soil like our McDonald Garden Center All Purpose Potting Mix.
- **For Outdoor:** Use an all-purpose potting soil mainly with some draining additives if you feel it is necessary.

Containers – When planting up your succulents, make sure you try to pick a pot with a hole at the bottom. This helps with draining the water from the pot to keep the plant from being over-watered. If you want to plant in a container without a hole, make sure to use a combination of charcoal and small gravel to keep the roots from getting too wet.

Water – A misconception with succulents is that they never need water. Succulents need to be watered when very dry. Generally, you want to wait at least a month, if not 6 weeks to water your indoor succulents depending on the size of the pot they are in and the amount of drainage that they have. Letting the leaves get a little shriveled is a good sign that they need water. Outdoor succulents may need to be watered too when in containers. Be wary of over-watering outdoors, especially in the winter when they aren't growing as much as the spring and summer months.

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Feeding – Feeding is not a momentous task for succulent containers. Use a granular or liquid plant food from late spring to late summer for indoor and outdoor succulents.

Try our McDonald Garden Center Greenleaf Granular Plant Food for easy feeding.

Decorating – Once you have planted your succulent container, you can give it some toppings! Try using sand, colored rocks, glass pebbles, or even mulch around your succulents. This gives your container that final touch while also keeping moisture off the leaves.

SUCCULENT CONTAINER SUGGESTIONS

Indoor –

- Pick a planter and succulents with your decor in mind. Theming your plants with your interior space can really tie things together. If you are having trouble deciding, come in and ask one of our Green Team houseplant experts for assistance.
- When planting up your succulent container, make sure your container isn't too big for the succulents you are planting. These plants like to live in tight spaces so if you think the pot you picked is too big, just add more succulents!
- Try multiple combos in similar pots for a fun collection of combinations! This can be both a fun project to care for, as well as indoor decor. Try pots with different heights to add depth to your decoration.

Outdoor –

- Like indoor decorating, outdoor decorating can be according to theme. Picking your pots and plants with the space you have in mind is always a great way to approach succulent combinations. Here is a list of some of our favorite themes:
- Bohemian - macrame hangers, neutral colors, bold textures.
- Beach - Cool tones, hues of blue, seashells, aquatic animals and fish.
- Fairy Garden - terrariums and small plants, green and lush-colored pottery, small figurines and decorations.
- Terracotta bowls are always a great choice for outdoor succulents. They are both a beautiful orange color and extremely functional for the drought tolerance of succulents. These kinds of arrangements can be placed out in the garden or on a patio table as a centerpiece.

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