



TOP TEN REASONS TO PLANT SUCCULENTS

from an interview with Master Gardener Anne Lowings, Sonoma County

sonomamg.ucanr.edu/2011_Feature_Articles/Succulents_The_Camels_of_the_Plant_World/

1. Require minimal maintenance – require little training, staking, or severe pruning. If drought stressed, their leaves shrink, but don't drop. Later, when watered, their leaves plump up again, requiring little clean up.
2. Offer unique architectural shapes, foliage colors and textures – Are renowned for an endless array of unique textures, architectural shapes and colorful foliage.
3. Are attractive 12 months out of the year – Most succulents are evergreen. They keep their attractive foliage and dramatic shape throughout the entire year.
4. Can handle difficult conditions – Many succulents can thrive under conditions which would stress other plants. They tolerate low water, poor and shallow soils, windy conditions, and steep slopes.
5. Are tough but not invasive – Their shallow roots systems don't compete with other plants for water and nutrients, nor do they damage pavement or building foundations.
6. Are very adaptable – though they can handle low water conditions, they can often be inter-planted with more moisture loving plants, providing they have good drainage.
7. Are great "fill ins" between upright plants – Nothing offsets upright plants like ground cover succulents. Because they don't require much moisture, weeds don't grow persistently between them.
8. Are fire safe – They offer this winning combination: tissues with high moisture content and low, if any, flammable oils.
9. Can be easily transplanted – Their shallow root systems allow them to be moved easily.
10. Are easily propagated – If you have a succulent that works in your garden, it's easy to start more. Put a piece of the plant in some well-drained soil, water occasionally and wait for it to root.

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