



**Clinton
Parkway
Nursery
& Garden Store**

**4900 Clinton Parkway
Lawrence, Kansas 66047
785-842-3081**

Cactus & Succulent Care

Soil

Choosing a soil that drains well, like a gritty potting mix, is essential to the growth and development of your cactus or succulent. ferti-lome Cactus Soil is a great option, because it is specifically mixed in order to provide optimal drainage. It is also possible to mix your own soil: three parts sterilized fibrous soil, one part peat moss, and one part of 1/4in washed grit. It can be helpful to use pebbles or pieces of a broken pot in the bottom, in order to further promote drainage, which may be a necessity if you are planting the succulent or cactus in a container with no drainage hole, though that would not be recommended.

Watering

Water thoroughly, until the water has drained through to the bottom. When the water drains out, if you have a saucer underneath, make sure to empty it. Because succulents retain water in their leaves, they do not need the excess, and leaving them in standing water may lead to root rot, which smells, looks bad, and will result in the death of your plant.

Wait to water the succulent or cactus until the soil is completely dry to water again. The plant may benefit from occasionally misting in the winter season, depending on the type, as homes tend to be drier with heaters running and cold weather. As a general rule, the smaller the pot, the more frequent the plant will need to be watered. Terra cotta pots are a great option for cacti and succulents, because they are porous, helping absorb the excess water, while also providing visual proof of how much water is toward the bottom of the pot. If your succulent or cactus looks mushy at the base, the likelihood that the roots have rotted is high, and it is most likely due to over-watering or allowing the plant to sit in standing-water.

Light

Cacti and Succulents can be classified in two groups: desert, which like full, dry sun/high light, or jungle, which like moist shade. If you have had your plants in your home for the winter season, it is critical that the plants are gradually acclimated to the full sun outdoors, otherwise it might burn due to the drastic and abrupt change. When putting a succulent or cactus in your home, either just for the winter season or as an all year houseplant, it is essential that the plant is housed in an area where the natural sunlight can reach it. This means that it is more important for the plant to be in line with the window, even as far as the middle of the room, rather than close to the window, but out of the line of sunlight.

Temperature

Cacti and Succulents are extremely sensitive to cold temperatures. In both extreme heat and cold temperatures, a cactus or succulent has the potential to go into premature dormancy, which has the potential to stunt its growth and blooming pattern. It is important to consider where you are placing the plant in your home, particularly if there is a drafty area or near the heating/cooling ventilation. It is also important to consider how well insulated your walls and windows are and if they let in a fair amount of cold air, you may want to put your cactus or succulent toward the middle of the room.

Fertilizer

Feed your cactus or succulent in the Spring and Summer seasons, as this is their growing season. In the Fall, begin to taper off the fertilizer, as the plant is in the process of going dormant. Do not fertilize in the Winter Season, as the cactus or succulent is dormant. When feeding your plant, use a fertilizer that is a balanced, 1-1-1 ratio. We recommend the granular FoxFarm Happy Frog Fertilizer.