

Get Sharp: Introduction to the Wonders of Cacti and Other Succulents

Presented by

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Goals for
the
Presentation

Succulents defined

Types of succulents

How to grow succulents

Light

Soil

Temperature

Succulent woes

Succulents have fleshy, thickened parts where water is stored.



Cacti are specialized succulents.



- Most cacti have lost their leaves, and instead have areoles, small, fleshy protuberances where spines and flowers grow.
- All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.

Four Categories of Succulents

- **Stem Succulents**

- **Root Succulents**

- **Leaf Succulents**

- **Caudiciform Succulents**

Stem Succulents



Stem succulents store water in stems, which are usually columnar or barrel shaped.

Root Succulents

Root succulents survive drought by storing water in their roots.



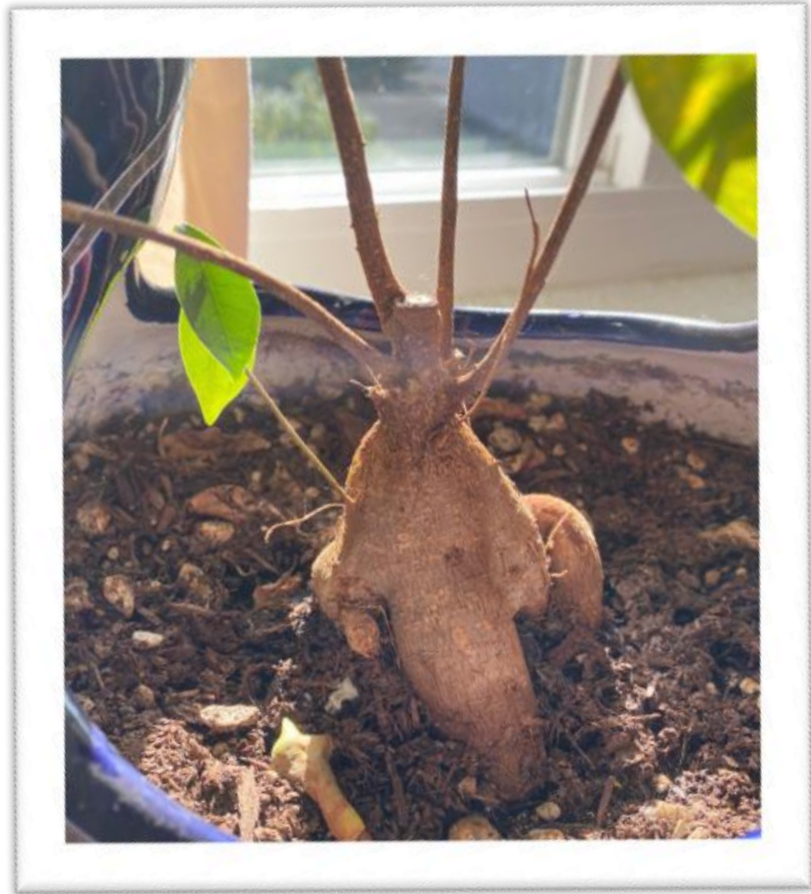
Leaf Succulents



- Leaf succulents store water in fleshy leaves.
- When water is abundant, leaves swell.
- During drought, leaves shrivel .

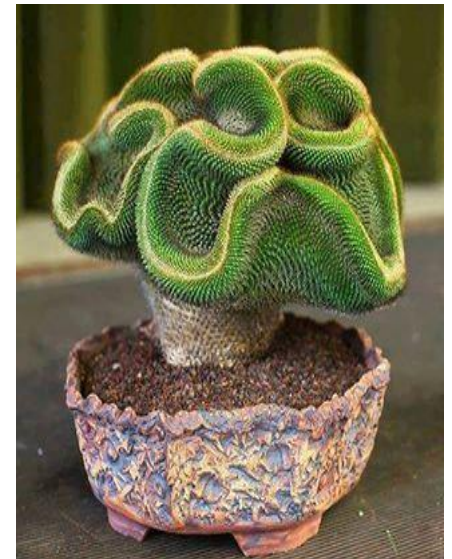
Caudiciform Succulents

- Caudiciform succulents have a swollen base/trunk/ root.
- The plant can take in large amounts of water when abundant and store for use during drought.



Why Grow Them?

- Love Sacramento
- Conserve resources
- Pot or garden friendly
- Great variety
- Easy to grow
- Want you to go on vacation
- Living sculpture
- Amazing flowers and shapes!



They Have True Grit

- Grow and flourish amidst harsh and challenging conditions



How to Grow Them

Right balance of:

- Water
- Light
- Soil
- Temperature



Water -
If in Doubt
Hold Out!

- Winter and summer growers
- Acidic water
- Geek-out: Get a ph tester and test your water from a few outdoor locations: 5 - 6.5 ideal

Light -

That light is too big, that light is too small, now that light is just right

- Protect from South and West afternoon sun (house structure, other plants, rocks, patio)
- Cacti burn too- 30-50 % shade cloth
- Geek-out: Get a light meter app on your phone and measure the light around cacti and succulents- need 2000-4000 lumens

Soil- Stay Light and Thrive

- Fast-draining soil
- Lean soil
- Most “garden potting soil” needs amending
 - pumice, lava rock, or sharp sand
- Refresh soil in pots every 2-3 years



Temperature- Different Strokes for Different Folks

Some are frost hardy
Some are frost tender
Some are sorta frost hardy
Some like it really hot- some
like it cool with light shade

Too much sun- burn and
wither away

Too much shade- lanky and
weak



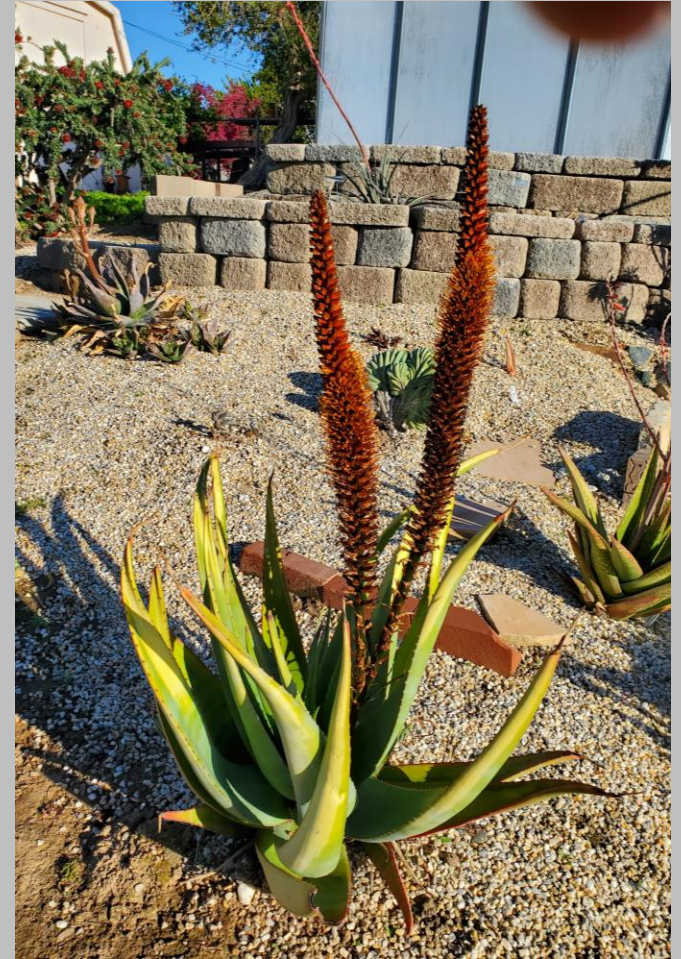
Major Worries

- Drown
- Burn
- Freeze to death
- Succumb to disease



Sacramento Winners:

- Crassula (Sempervivum, Sedum, Ecchverria)
- Aloe: Check frost hardiness
- Cacti (Echinocereus, Ferocactus, Oreocereus)
- Double check for hardiness !!



Where to Find Them

- Big box stores
- Local nurseries
- Cactus and succulent shows
- Regional nurseries
- Online



Questions and Answers



Thank-you
for coming!





