

# CARE OF CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

**POT** plants in a clean container with a drain hole. The pot should be about one inch larger in diameter than the plant.

**POTTING MIX** should be fast-draining. One-half to two-thirds by volume can be a commercial potting mix or your usual clean, pest-free mix; the other one-half or one-third should be drainage material well mixed in, such as pumice or perlite or coarse (not fine) sand.

**TO PLANT** in the ground: build a mound or use a slope, adding material for fast drainage. **DO NOT** plant small seedlings in the ground.

**TEMPERATURE:** Most succulents will not withstand many hours of subfreezing temperatures. Protect them from cold; being cold and wet at the same time can kill them.

**DO NOT WATER** plants if:  
They are wet already;  
Temperatures are low;  
Weather is bad;  
Plants are dormant.

**SUN OR SHADE?** Place new plants in light shade. Small plants will burn in hot sun. Most cacti and succulents do well in strong indirect light.

**FERTILIZE** regularly with low-nitrogen fertilizer – about 8-12% nitrogen. Dilute liquid fertilizer twice as much as it says to on the label.

**PESTS:** Inspect often so as to prevent them. Use alcohol on a brush to remove them, or insecticidal soap, or a systemic insecticide poured into the soil around the plant.

—Phyllis Flechsig, Encinitas

