

Succulents
Kerrie Roach
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Whether it's the garden center, the grocery store, or even the local craft store giant, over the last few years there has been a significant increase in the popularity of succulents. I have seen images of succulent plants on t-shirts, notebooks, wall hangings and even on cell phone cases. Providing a fun way to incorporate plants into most any situation, succulents are considered cute, easy and fun to grow. So why not add one or two to your home or office?

Short answer... many people find they are actually one of the hardest houseplants to grow.

Too much water, not enough light, too little light, no fertility, plants in combination that have different requirements, mice that find your office plants to be a sweet little snack; there are so many reasons that succulents fail. The most common problem with succulents is lack of knowledge. Most succulents come in cute little containers that have no drainage, little fertility, and even less information about how to care for it. So, if you are in the market for a succulent planter, or you received one recently as a gift, keep reading for a few hints to a long life of succulent success.

Do your research first. If you are buying your own succulents, make sure you are purchasing from a reputable nursery with plants that are properly named. Utilize your smart phone, computer, or one of those old-fashioned books to learn the name and requirements for that specific plant. Most nurseries will group their succulents by light requirements, which can help when you are designing your planter. Make sure you are putting plants that have similar light and water needs together. If you have been gifted a succulent planter, you may need to separate some plants into new containers because requirements are not always kept in mind when planting. Utilize good quality, coarse potting material specifically designed for succulents. Covering the top with small pebbles can help reduce soil moisture loss and keep the soil in the container. Make sure the container has drainage, if not, add some pebbles in the bottom to allow room for excess water without damaging plant roots. Overwatering is the number one killer of any kind of houseplant!

While succulents can be difficult to grow, with a little knowledge you can have some of the trendiest containers in your home or office and be the talk of the local garden club. Just remember, everyone loses plants at one time or another. So, if a mouse carries your succulent away and you find pieces in your desk drawer, or you leave for a few weeks and the sun bakes your poor plants into oblivion... call it a learning experience, support the local nursery industry, and go buy some new plants!