

## Cactus & Succulent Care



*"A recent study shows that cacti, when placed in close proximity to a computer monitor, can greatly reduce headaches caused by the harmful rays emitted from the monitor."*

**Caring for a cacti or succulent plant is possibly the easiest of all houseplants, but can also be the most rewarding. Frequent watering is not an issue, and they only need to be re-potted once every 4-5 years. Fertilizer should be given during the growing season.**

### **Succulent vs. Cactus:**

You may be wondering what determines whether a plant is classified as a succulent or a cactus. Truth is, all cacti are succulents, while all succulents are not cacti.

One thing a cactus has that other succulents do not, is called an areole. An areole is composed of two buds, and from these buds flowers, branches, fruit, and spines emerge. The spines are the distinguishing characteristic most recognized by people.

A sure way to determine if your plant is a cactus or a succulent is to remove a spine (or what looks like a spine). If you can do so without injuring the body of the plant, than it is a cactus. If removing the 'spine' results in a clear or milky sap, than the plant is a non-cacti succulent.



### **Light Requirements:**

Good lighting is essential for strong growth in cacti and succulents. Before choosing a plant, always be aware of the type of light you have available in the space you would like to place it. Although some plants will adjust to less than favorable environments, they will have brighter color and bloom longer when placed in their ideal conditions. Plants placed in dim light will be less colorful and may not bloom at all.

Potted plants should be turned every once in a while so that sunlight reaches all parts. The exception to this is when the plant is in bloom. Turning it while in bloom may cause the buds to drop, due to lack of light.



### **Water Requirements:**

The fleshy nature of the leaves on succulents and cacti allow them to store water for long periods of time. Even the most forgetful gardener will have a hard time drying out a cactus! It is recommended to let the plant go on the dry side before watering.

If you have further questions, please ask a Customer Service Representative.