

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society An Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

From cold, high-desert mountains in the north to subtropical desert lowlands in the south, Arizona presents a variety of discrete desert ecosystems, each providing habitat for numerous species of cacti. The native cacti of Arizona vary greatly in appearance, yet each evolved similar features to thrive within the harsh environment, including water-retentive tissue, defensive spines and efficient root systems. Arizona desert landscape and cacti Violet Prickly Pear Violet Prickly Pear Named for the purplish-pink color of its pads, violet prickly pear *Opuntia gosseliniana* appears in south-central Arizona, particularly in the arid, lowland regions of Pima County. Like most varieties of prickly pear, it has a spreading shrub-like habit and forms spine-covered, paddle-like foliage. It grows to between 2 and 4 feet in height with a 6-foot spread. Originally thought to be a reaction to environmental stress, the violet coloration of this species is, in fact, a defensive mechanism used to dissuade grazing animals from feeding upon it, according to Nora Bowers, author of "Cactus of Arizona Field Guide. Reaching between 15 and 50 feet in height, saguaros grow very slowly, sending up a single, 2-foot-wide column lined with clusters of 2-inch-long spines in youth. Despite their great height, this species develops a relatively shallow root system, sending down a 3-foot-long tap root and numerous branching capillary roots to provide anchorage in the rocky soil. Named for its pale-yellow spines, golden hedgehog cactus is a small, spreading species comprised of up to 20 2-foot-tall stems lined with exceptionally thick, 3-inch-long spines arranged in rosette patterns. Due to the density of its spines, the pale-green flesh of this species is not easily seen except in young plants. In mid-spring, golden hedgehog cactus bears a crop of waxy lavender or crimson flowers, which later mature into small, red fruit. Native to the Sonoran desert, Arizona barrel cactus *Ferocactus wislizeni* has spread throughout the southwestern United States. Named for its thick, round form, this species grows to between 3 and 6 feet in height with a inch diameter at maturity. The flesh of Arizona barrel cactus is deeply ribbed and olive-green in color, with clusters of hooked spines lining its ribs. It occurs in areas of periodic flooding, where it can easily absorb and store available moisture for use during drought seasons. In mid-summer, Arizona barrel cacti produce several reddish-orange flowers on their southeastern sides, which are a preferred source of nectar for pollinating insects such as cactus bees. Its downy covering of dense spines is not soft to the touch like its namesake, however. Found in low desert flatlands throughout the American Southwest, teddy bear cholla thrives in rocky, well-draining soil at elevations below feet in Arizona. It is an erect, single-trunked species with numerous curving branches covered in silvery-white spines. The uppermost branches of teddy bear cholla typically appear light-beige in color with the trunk and lower branches having a reddish-brown or bronze coloration. From late April until June, it bears 4-inch-wide chartreuse flowers on the tips of its branches, which are attractive to nectar-feeding birds and insects.

Chapter 2 : SHOW & SALE – Central Arizona Cactus

Succulents and cacti can provide very colorful and interesting landscape and garden borders. From fire red groundcovers to coral colors reached toward the sky, your borders can be anything but boring with succulent and cactus plants!

Cacti delivery is available Monday to Friday. Agave Americana Although it is called the century plant, Agave Americana typically lives only 10 to 30 years. It has a spreading about 4 ft 1. When it flowers, the spike has big yellow flowers and may reach up to 8 ft 2. Agave Victoria This agave is highly variable in form, but in general the rosettes are small and compact, growing to 0. Cream colored flowers are borne in erect racemes up to 4m in length. Argentine Giant A columnar cactus with each stem fast growing up to 4 inches wide, 3 feet tall, and clumping 6 – 7 feet wide. The plants can spread to about 7 feet. It is leafless for most of the year but photosynthesizes through the stems. It produces many small, pink flowers on the upper parts of the stems. The nocturnal flowers remain open for only one night. Easter Lily Cactus Large pink flowers burst out from the white spine jeweled ribs of this cylinder shaped Cactus. Year-round beauty for an arid landscape or containers. Once established, this cactus needs only occasional watering. Golden Barrel This cactus is cylindrical, slow growing to 4 ft. A must in any desert landscape, the golden spines line the ribs of this globe shaped cactus, with the top adorned by bright yellow flowers emerging from a patch of wool. Gopher Purge This plant contains a latex like milky sap that is found in the roots, leaves and flowers. Poinsettias are members of the same genus and contain the same kind of sticky sap which can cause skin irritation in sensitive people. It grows a trunk up to 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. The Desert Spoon can tolerate drought and has blue green leaves. It has small white flowers on a 10 foot stalk in the summer. Do not over water. Hedgehog Cactus This cactus grows in clumps of three to 60 stems per clump. Each light green stem grows up to 12 inches tall. As more and more stems grow, the clump can spread to 3 feet wide. The stems are cylindrical bodies with 11 to 14 ribs. Mexican Cardon Cactus Cardon is the tallest cactus species in the world, with a maximum recorded height of It is a slow-growing plant, with a lifespan measured in hundreds of years. Native Red Barrel This cactus usually grows to about 60 cm 2 feet long and about 30 cm 1 foot in diameter. They endure the driest environments. Flowers, yellow to orange and purplish and sometimes fragrant, are up to 8 cm 3 inches across. More about Cacti Cacti are native to the Americas, being found as far south as Patagonia and up into western Canada. The Rhipsalis baccifera is the exception here, as it is also found in Africa and Sri Lanka. With their sharp spines and lack of leaves they stand as a sort of tribute to harshness of the environment for which they are born.

Chapter 3 : Cacti of Arizona

Cacti of Arizona Plants > Cacti > Arizona Below is a list of all cacti found in Arizona; the main species first, those with a photograph and full description page, followed by all other species, generally less common.

While cactus is a succulent, not all succulents are cactus. Succulents or succulent plants are known in botany as plants that have some parts that are more fleshy and thickened. Typically these thicker areas are designed to retain water in arid climates, like Phoenix. The area in which the plant stores the water varies. Some succulents store the water in their leaves or stems. Other succulents might not appear as thick or fleshy above ground, because they store their water in their root system. Succulents Add Unique Landscaping Appeal There are about 50 plant families that fit the definition of succulent. While the term gets a little arbitrary when really nailing down exactly which plants are and which plants are not succulents there are some that people are familiar with. Agaves and cactus are two of the most well known and common types of succulents. Lesser known succulents are a way that many gardeners and landscape companies choose to create unique interest in the landscaping. A lot of the more obscure styles of succulents deliver unique, somewhat alien forms and shapes that make the landscape stand out and add value to the curb appeal of your home. Due to the interesting structural shapes of the succulents many can provide interesting silhouettes and totally unique appeal. If a gardener wants to make a one of a kind type of yard succulents can help achieve this goal like few other landscaping options. A Madagascan palm is a great succulent option for the desert. It is a moderately faster grower and grows well with partial shade. The Aloe Vaombe is an aloe tree that grows well in our low desert environment. It has red flowers and pure green leaves. This combination provides beautiful contrast and visual interest. It does require some shade but tolerates the desert fairly well. Planting a Ponytail Palm is a great way to get some real interest in your landscape. This is because of how big these palms grow. At their mature height you can expect one of these palms to reach as high as 25 feet! The base of a full grow Ponytail Palm also reaches about 6 foot in diameter. The Smooth Agave is another wildly popular succulent plant for Arizona. It grows quickly and best when it is in partial sun or shade. The size when mature is about 3 feet wide and 3 feet tall. The Smooth Agave flowers in the spring with bright yellow blooms and has low litter to keep your landscape cleaner. Ocotillo is a staple for many of the commercial, public, and residential landscapes in Arizona. It enjoys growing in full sun and can grow to be 10 feet wide and 12 feet high! The Ocotillo blooms in the spring with orange to red clusters and is a great plant to attract humming birds. Lechuguilla Verde is another low water use succulent that grows very well in Arizona. They grow to about 3 feet high by 3 feet wide and grow best in partial sun. Yellow flowers bloom during late winter and spring on the Lechuguilla Verde. The plant does feature sharp thorns, so care should be taken when planting where children will play. Planting Succulents The majority of succulents are not native to Arizona and need to be cared for a bit differently. The key is planting the succulents so they do not get the afternoon sun, when the heat and light is at its. Shade given by bushes is an easy and effective way to offer these interesting and beautiful plants the environment they will thrive in. Succulent Care One of the biggest keys of caring for succulents is having well draining soils. Clay type soils that tend to hold water for extended periods of time are detrimental to the root systems of succulents. Gritty or sandy soils are some of the best for these types of plants as they really do prefer to be in the dry climates. Watering Succulents During the growing season monitoring the soil is critical to getting the watering right. Once the soil is dry more than a couple of inches down a deep watering is necessary. After that watering allow the soil to dry out again before applying more water. Base watering for succulents is preferable to sprinklers or applying the water directly to the leaves, stems or other above ground structures. With a wide selection of Succulents gardeners and landscapers in Arizona can customize their landscapes and make something truly unique and breathtakingly beautiful. Stop by one of our locations to see our selection or give us a call if you are looking for a specific type of succulent.

Chapter 4 : The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society lo. southeastern Arizona, southwest-Range: ern New Mexico, Chihuahua and Fouquieria splendens can be.

Cactus and Succulent Care: While succulents are native to arid regions and generally thrive in poor soils, it does not mean one should not water them or provide nutrients. How often should you water? There is no answer that is universally correct. There is a direct relationship between water, light, temperature, soil conditions and humidity. The higher the light level and temperature and the less humid the more often watering is required. During this active period watering can be frequent and fertilizer applied. The most active time for most cacti is during the spring and early parts of summer. As this period passes, it is best to reduce the frequency of watering as winter approaches. They require very little water during the cold months. A good watering once a week in hot weather and once a month in the dormant period is a good point to start as you learn your plants needs. Another approach is when the soil is completely dry, water thoroughly then let dry. Too much fertilizer can be worse than none at all. Other succulents are more complicated. Many do not adjust their active periods because they are growing in a different hemisphere than their native land. You need to learn the winter growers from the spring to summer growers and treat accordingly. What is the best soil for cactus and other succulents? Most commercial potting soils are too rich in fresh organic matter for these plants. The most important factor in choosing a planting medium is that it allows food, water and air to get to the roots and is porous enough to let water drain through. Sand, small pebbles and vermiculite are ingredients added by many successful growers and hobbyists. Experiment with different combinations to discover the right combination for your conditions. What size pot should I use? In many cases it is best to under pot rather than over pot, when potting slower growing or rot prone species. The more substrate in the pot, the more water that is going to be stored in the pot; larger pots take longer to dry out which can lead to potential problems with rot. Cactus like *Cereus*, *Trichocereus*, *Stenocereus*, *Myrtillocactus*, *Opuntia* are usually suitable for larger pots since they are not as sensitive. Your substrate mix and local climate play an important role in this as well. A top dressing of crushed granite or pea gravel looks good and has benefits as well. It keeps the topsoil from drying out faster than the rest of the soil in the pot, keeps the base of the plant dry and assists in the even distribution of water through the soil. Direct sun and light are not the same! In the wild you will find young plants tucked under a bush, tree or something else that provides filtered light. If new growth on your plant is pale green and elongated, it needs more light. If the side of your plant facing the light source is yellow, tan, red or indented, it is getting too much light. Succulents do not like stagnant air. Provide good air circulation for your plants. An excellent source of information is the Cacti etc mailing list. Hobbyists and professional growers from around the world subscribe to the mailing list. Many are growing and enjoying these plants in conditions just like yours, a great place to learn and share experiences. Have a specific question, search the lists archive. There are many excellent books on the market that can help with culture and identification of these plants. Interesting reading on cactus, succulents and the North American Southwest:

Chapter 5 : Succulents | Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Cacti at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Continuing my series of posts from our Southwest trip this summer, I'd like to take you back to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM) outside of Tucson and show you some of many cacti growing there.

Chapter 6 : Phoenix Desert Nursery, Cacti, Desert trees

Live Baby Cactus - 1 Inch Ceramic Pot(exactly As Pictured) - Small Cacti - Cutest Little Mini Cactus - You Will Receive 1 Mini Cactus in a 1" Ceramic Pot(exactly As Pictured).

Chapter 7 : Saguaro - Wikipedia

Cacti and Succulents in Tucson, Arizona At Bach's Greenhouse Cactus Nursery, we grow cactus and succulents of all types. Our nursery of over 10 acres is filled with beautiful plants and our pincushion exhibit is open for customers to enjoy.

Chapter 8 : Cactus, Agaves, and Succulents in the Phoenix area

We at Arizona Cactus Sales thank you for your interest and hope that you will visit our nursery in the near future! If a visit is out of the question, Arizona Cactus Sales invites you to take an online tour of our location and visit the online shop.

Chapter 9 : Succulents and More: Cacti at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Here is a cactus picture taken at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. It is a Cleistocactus from central and southern South America. It is a Cleistocactus from central and southern South America.