

HARDY SUCCULENTS

SUCCULENTS THAT DO WELL IN OUR AREA

AEONIUM

The aeoniums are fast growing and rosette shaped. They can be stemless or shrublike, small or medium sized, sun or shade loving. Most are moderately drought tolerant, mildly frost tolerant, but only moderately heat tolerant. After flowering with clusters of small starry blooms, the rosette dies. These pinwheel plants are dormant in summer and start growing in autumn.

Aeonium arboretum (tree aeonium)

Aeonium arboretum ‘Schwartzkopf’ (black aeonium)

AGAVE

The agaves are stemless, or nearly stemless, rosettes. Their fleshy leaves, each tipped with a sharp spine, tend to be blue-green in plants from colder climates and a soft gray-green in those from warmer areas. Once the rosette is mature the growing point develops into a tall flower spike of bell-shaped summer blooms.

Agave Victoria-reginae

ALOE

The aloe species grow from Arabia to South Africa range from 6” miniature stemless rosettes to 30’ trees. The rosette is formed by leaves that grow, rather than unfurl, from the center. They flower annually on long flower stems bearing clusters of small tubular blooms that can be red, orange, green or yellow. They appear mostly in winter and spring.

ECHEVERIA

Most of these rosette shaped succulents are from Mexico. The genus is named after the 18th century Mexican botanical artist, Atanasio Echeverria y Godoy. They vary in shape and size, form rosettes of fleshy green or gray green leaves and often marked with deeper colors. Most of them are beautiful and easy to grow, are sun, partial shade loving and are intensely colored when grown outdoors. Many of the species produce numerous offsets, and are commonly known as ‘Hen and chicks’, which can also refer to other genera such as *Sempervivum*.

Echeveria elegans

SEDUM

The several hundred stonecrop plants include slow to fast growing sedums from all over the world. Most hardy species are small bushes or carpeting plants and make good ground covers. The fleshy leaves store water and are evergreen and highly variable in size, shape and color. These pale to blue green plants like sun or shade.

Sedum morganianum (burro's or donkey's tail)

Sedum furfuraceum

SEMPERVIVUM

These small hardy alpines, or houseleeks, from northern Africa and Europe, make good rock garden and pot plants. Many turn red or violet in midsummer while semidormant. They have neat rosettes of leaves that offset freely in spring to form a spreading carpet. They are also sometimes called 'Hens and chicks'

Sempervivum 'Emerson's Giant' (in summer, rosette turns from green to a reddish purple color)

SENECIO

This is a very large genus of over 1,000 species that are grown for their decorative foliage. They are very diverse and range from small sticklike plants to large bushes

Senecio rowleyanus (String of Beads)

Notes:

On Watering: Succulents do well when given regular water, although they will survive without it. During the growing season (which for most succulents is spring and summer), keep the soil as moist as a wrung-out sponge. In fall, decrease water as the plants go dormant, and during the winter let the soil go almost dry between waterings, then water sparingly.

On Containers: If your succulents are planted in containers, they should be monitored closely for how much water they need and should be covered when frost is expected.

References:

Hewitt, Terry *The Complete Book of Cactus & Succulents*,
DK Publishing, Inc. 1993

Sunset Western Garden Book, Sunset Publishing Corporation, 2000

East Bay Municipal Utility District, *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry
Climates*, East Bay Municipal Utility District, 2004

Duffield, Mary Rose and Jones, Warren, *Plants for Dry Climates*,
Da Capo Press, 2001