

Cactus and Succulent Container Gardens

Cacti and succulents are known for their ability to survive drought conditions for long periods of time. Easy to grow and take care of they make excellent plants to create low maintenance focal points adding interest to sunny decks, patios and entrances. Cacti and succulents have the ability to store water in their stems, leaves and roots which allows them to thrive on minimal watering. They lose moisture slowly because their leaves and stems have protective coverings of wax or hairs.

Cacti and succulents can be planted into the home landscape provided these plants are grown above grade or on a slight mound that provides better drainage. Another alternative is to amend the soil to improve drainage. Mounts Botanical Garden horticulturist Joel Crippen is replanting the cacti and succulent demonstration garden. Joel is in the process of adding new and unusual varieties to the garden. In support of our public garden, the Mounts Botanical Garden 'Guild' propagates and sells a wonderful assortment of these drought tolerant plants. The Mounts Botanical Garden is open M-F 8am-4pm except observed holidays and the Mounts bookstore in the garden has plants for sale Thursday through Sundays. The Mounts 'Guild' nursery is open Mondays and Thursday mornings only 9-11am. Mounts Botanical Garden is located at 531 North Military Trail West Palm Beach.



Figure 1 Mounts Botanical Garden Horticulturist Joel Crippen re-landscaping the cacti and succulent demonstration garden



Figure 2 Master Gardener and 'Guild' volunteer Shirley Shiver(center) advises customers on succulents in Mounts Botanical Garden Nursery