



Succulent Garden Landscaping

- Assess plants, what pots you might use instead of planting in the ground; use of boulders and other enhancements, keeping in mind using varying sizes and shapes.
- If using containers, take them to the nursery to try them out
- What colors, textures and patterns do you want to incorporate. Vary sizes and shapes of the plants
- Take into consideration when choosing location of plants: Aside from Agaves, most succulents do not like intense afternoon sun; water requirements = create hydrozone areas.
- Don't forget to consider how large the succulents will get...you may have to remove them at some point and if they have needles, spines, etc., they may be very difficult to move. Succulents that will become very large may be better served in sturdy containers to restrain growth.
- Think about creating height differences in the landscape to add interest (i.e. mound dirt and/or create swales). Think about a dry streambed to catch runoff
- Don't align or place plants or boulders equidistant from each other, aim for more visual interest. Create groupings of plants rather than a lonely plant.
- Fill spaces between plants with decomposed granite, gravel or a ground cover
- Think about placement of those succulents that have spines, filaments, etc. that will be enhanced when backlit by the sun, such as a silver torch cactus, sticks on fire, etc.
- Succulents have shallow root systems, so when planting, you may decide that they don't work in an area, so you can easily move them

Resources:

Marin County MG, all about succulents:

https://marinmg.ucanr.edu/PLANTS/SUCCULENTS_LOW_WATER/

<https://plantmaster.com/presents/plants.php?id=5fb0a2703198b>

Napa Master Gardeners Video presentation: The Art of Raising Succulents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBroJ5DAHvU>

Slide presentation (not video)

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucmgnapa/files/361293.pdf>

WUCOLS IV (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species, Fourth Edition)

https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/

Ruth Bancroft Garden 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (925)944-9352

<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org>

<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden/> (plant collections)

<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/nursery/> (nursery)

UC Botanical Garden, Landscape Cacti and Succulent Nursery 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720 (510) 643-2755

<https://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu>

Resources for Plants and Inspiration: UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden Headquarters at Valley Oak Cottage (TB32), 448 LaRue Road, UC Davis campus, Davis, CA 95616 (530) 752-4880

<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

Web references

Stockwell, Robin. "Succulent Landscaping" Pacific Horticultural Society, January 2013.

http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.org/Elkus/Planting_a_succulent_garden/

https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/PLANTS/SUCCULENTS_LOW_WATER/

Books:

Baldwin, Debra Lee. Designing with Succulents. Timber Press, completely Revised Edition, 2017.
Succulents Simplified. Timber Press, 2013 (Fifth printing 2016)

Shelf, Ken. Essential Succulents, The Beginner's Guide. Rockridge Press, 2018.

Kelaidis, Moore Gwen. Hardy Succulents: Tough Plants for Every Climate. Storey Publishing, 2008.

***All Napa Master Gardeners Past presentations and workshops

https://napamg.ucanr.edu/Workshop_References_and_Slides/

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