

## Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse

7366 North Paseo del Norte – Tucson, AZ 85704 – 520-544-7922

[www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org)

### SUCCULENTS and ALOES

*Succulents grow well in the ground or in containers*



Succulents are plants which store water in fleshy stems or leaves, or in tuberous roots.

**Planting** – Most native soils are adequate for succulents. Improved growth is possible with the use of a soil mixture such as Desert Bloom (1/3 – 1/4" or smaller red decomposed granite, 1/3 sand and 1/3 Marana top soil) available locally at Bob's Material Supply.

**Site Selection** – Choose a site with adequate surface drainage and with the appropriate exposure for the succulent you are planting. Be careful to acclimate your plant. Greenhouse plants have not been grown in full sun and are likely to sunburn without adequate protection. Cover the succulent with shade cloth that allows only about 50% of the sunlight through. Three layers of cheese cloth will also work. The time it takes for a plant to acclimate depends on the time of the year. It is best to plan on covering the plant 2-4 weeks in the spring and fall, up to 8 weeks in summer and 2-8 weeks in winter.

**The Hole** – At a minimum, the hole should be a foot deep and a foot wide, but bigger is better. A large hole facilitates root growth and water absorption.

**Water** – Allow the soil to dry out completely between watering. During the summer water 1 to 2 times a week. During winter reduce watering to every 10 to 14 days. Catch rainwater to give your succulents – they will love it.

**Light** – Acclimate your plant to full sun slowly if it has been growing in the Greenhouse. Following recommended guidelines for full or partial sun, filtered shade, etc.

**Fertilizer** – A well balanced water soluble fertilizer at ½ strength can be added regularly to succulents during the growing season.