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Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, And Crafting With 100 Easy-Care Varieties



Synopsis

Succulents are hot. And Debra Lee Baldwin, the bestselling author of *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens*, is the ideal guide for gardeners, crafters, and DIYers looking for an introduction to these trendy, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants. Along with gorgeous photos packed with design ideas, Debra offers her top 100 plant picks and explains how to grow and care for succulents no matter where you live. Step-by-step projects, including a cake-stand centerpiece, special-occasion bouquets, a vertical garden, and a succulent topiary sphere, will inspire you to express your individual style. Whether you're a novice or veteran, have an acre to fill or a few pots, live in Calexico or Canada, *Succulents Simplified* is a dazzling primer for success with succulents wherever you live!

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Customer Reviews

If you've been around the world of horticulture for any time, you're probably familiar with Debra Lee Baldwin's work with succulents. Her first two books, *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens*, are still the most thoughtful, in-depth guides to those topics available. However,

both of those books have so much information that you could say they are aimed more towards a deeply passionate hobbyist or a professional like myself, rather than the casual gardener. In certain situations, I think it can be even more helpful to have a simpler reference which condenses the most actionable information available into one easy-to-use guide. That's where Debra's new book, *Succulents Simplified*, comes in. *Succulents Simplified* has three sections: How to grow and design with succulents successfully, How-to projects that showcase succulents, and Debra's top 100 easy-care succulents. Even though I'm a landscaping professional, I'm definitely no succulent expert, so having Debra's keep-it-simple tips for how to succeed with them are incredibly useful to me. She goes over everything from creating designs using the varied shapes, colors and textures of succulents, choosing the right location so they'll succeed, and the right way of maintaining these plants so they continue looking fresh. The information is presented in a clean, easy-to-peruse format with a lot of bullet points and lists making it easy to find the information you're looking for. Then, the second section has eight gorgeous DIY projects to get you more enthused and involved in the succulent world, with each section having multiple pages of detailed how-to photos and instructions. Want to grow succulents in a low light situation? Create one of those living picture vertical gardens you keep seeing in the magazines? What about a succulent-topped pumpkin to sit by your front door as autumn decor? She even goes into how to make succulent bouquets for special occasions, such as a wedding. What I love best about this section is that Debra gives us the tools to create our own projects from her instructions - not only is there endless variety in terms of which succulents you choose, but each project has huge potential for you to personalize it and make it your own in other ways. Though the first two sections are the most immediately exciting, I suspect the third section, 100 Easy-Care Succulents, will actually get the most use from me after I learn from the first section and do a few of the projects in the second. I confess that when I go to the nursery, I feel a hint of trepidation when I try to choose which succulents to use in my container planting projects. Debra demystifies the hardiness, habits, and best uses for each of the 100 succulents featured. This is exactly what I have needed all these years - a pictorial guide to some of the most common and useful succulents out there. With Debra's help, I feel like I'm finally learning to identify and understand Kalanchoes, Graptoverias and the rest. The only thing that could be better is if Debra would also release an app that I could take along with me to the garden center! I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the quality of the photographs in this book. Debra Lee Baldwin isn't just a writer; she's a noted photojournalist and took many of the pictures for this book herself. One of my main complaints about many recent releases in the horticultural book world is that the photos and the writing often don't seem to go together as smoothly as they could.

Either the photographs are close-ups of plants and don't fully illustrate the design tips, or the pictures don't have a consistent style throughout the book. Because of Debra's skill at both writing and photography, her book is a shining example of all that print publishing can and should be doing to ensure that photos and text work seamlessly to enhance one another and the aims of the book. The book is packed full of photos, with multiple pictures illustrating each point or plant. I can't say enough about what a difference this makes to my enjoyment of the text. Succulents Simplified is being marketed as a prequel to her other books, and I think that's completely accurate. I adore the in-depth information in her other two books and refer to them frequently, but I think the ease-of-use, inspirational photos and DIY projects, and the simple reference guide to the most common and noteworthy succulents is going to make this my favorite of the three to recommend people start with, because it has a little bit of everything you need, no matter how deep your interest in succulents.

Debra Lee Baldwin is a succulent expert and this book proves it!. I have read this book and used it numerous times to look up questions about my succulents. This is well written, and easy to understand and easy to use to quick look up a question.. It covers every succulent imaginable and gives care information about each one. But what I like about it most is of course the stunning pictures and the project ideas. This book is must have for anyone who is an avid succulent grower and collector! (like me). Her other book called succulent containers is also fantastic-I would recommend that one as well.

book is helpful if you have a little knowledge about how to plant etc. I found other books have more helpful pictures regarding potting which help me a lot. This book will be very helpful when I do my outside garden-excellent pictures and instructions

This is a good encyclopedia of different succulents. But it didn't have much to help me know how to take care of my succulent. For example, the section about cold weather care was only a paragraph or two.

If you want to learn more about succulents and how to grow and arrange them, read anything by Debra Lee Baldwin. Given the amount of excellent information in this book, I would recommend this to both beginners and experienced succulent growers. It is a fun and easy read that you will want to refer back to repeatedly. The first part discusses succulent enjoyment & care and includes some fun anecdotes. The second part gives some examples of arrangements. And the third describes 100

easy-care succulents arranged by family. I have been working on an e-learning course on succulents and found this book to be a wonderful inspiration. I would also recommend viewing any videos you can find with Debra Lee Baldwin. The video on creating a succulent color wheel is especially fantastic.

I'm a new "succulenteer" & this is the 1st book on the subject I've bought. It provides good, basic information to get started & to keep them growing. If you are interested in designing with succulents, there are some interesting projects she presents. Wonderful photographs accompany the short but descriptive list of 100 varieties of easy to care for succulents and cacti.

Wonderful book--well-designed, visually appealing, and chock full of excellent information. If you get one succulent book, this is the most "succulent" of them

Gorgeous illustrations. Sure to inspire the person I have in mind for this book as a gift...

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