

# Discover the Succulent Garden

The Succulent Garden features succulents that are hardy in the Rogue Valley climate. Succulents store water in their leaves and stems so they can survive with minimal water. A succulent garden can be very colorful as many varieties provide contrast in color and texture. Colors change dramatically from spring to fall, varying from shades of green to rich red and bronze.

## Look for:

- Zone 7 succulents will survive local winters; Zone 8 succulents will thrive in summer gardens, but may need to be treated as an annual in the Rogue Valley.
- There are many succulents native to Oregon. The *Lewisia* genus is named for Meriweather Lewis who documented the plant in his journal while exploring Oregon. The *Sedum* genus includes numerous ground cover and tall varieties. The 'Cape Blanco' and 'Oregonum' are sedum varieties that are native to Oregon.
- Many varieties here are 'Hens and Chicks' or 'Houseleeks,' which are included in the genus *Sempervivum* (Latin for 'always living'). They have colorful blossoms in shades of yellow and pink. Once the plants have bloomed, the parent plant dies, leaving multiple offsets or 'rosettes' to carry on.
- The north end of the garden features milkweed, grown for the benefit of the Monarch butterfly.

## Garden Tips

- Although succulents thrive with minimal water, they need water regularly during spring and summer.
- Well-drained soil is important for success in growing succulents. In heavy clay soils, adding compost will help break down the clay and add nutrients.
- Succulents need adequate sun, but many varieties do not require full sun. A partly sunny location is ideal for a lush and healthy succulent garden.
- Succulents are ideal for containers; for greater visual impact, group several contrasting varieties of succulents in a container. Elevating the container makes for easier viewing.
- Succulent plants propagate easily and will spread rapidly each year. Many will benefit from division.

