

Glossary of Terms

Clay soil – Soil with a high amount of clay. This soil sticks together when compressed, lacks oxygen, and doesn't absorb water quickly. Some plants do well in clay soils (see website), but for others, the addition of generous amounts of compost, *Earth Magic*, and other organic nutrients, along with *Expanded Shale* to improve drainage will be helpful.

Dormant – Many perennials will, in cold weather, go into a period of hibernation (greatly reduced growth). The perennial may die back to the ground, while its roots are alive and well. See "Fall Care" pg. 9.

Enriched garden soil – Good quality garden soil that has been enriched with compost, organic nutrients such as *Yum Yum Mix*, phosphate and *Planters II*.

Lean soil – Soil that is low in organic matter, drains quickly, and is low in clay. Great for xeric plants with some amendments. See details pp. 3,4.

Mulch – A layer of material spread over the surface of the soil to reduce evaporation, control weeds, regulate temperature, enrich soil, reduce erosion, and add beauty.

Perennial – Any plant that lives for 3 or more years when grown in conditions suitable for it.

Tilth – Soil structure that facilitates air and water penetration.

Xeric – From the Greek word *xeri* for dry, needing little moisture. Xeric and waterwise are often used interchangeably and indicate plants or gardens needing little supplemental watering, **once established**.

Xeriscape – A landscape or garden featuring xeric or waterwise plants to create a low water environment.

HIGH COUNTRY GARDENS

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HIGH COUNTRY GARDENS

Mail Order Division of Santa Fe Greenhouses, Inc.

PLANTING GUIDE

SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPLANTING YOUR NEW PLANTS

Thank you for buying your plants from us! We've been growing and gardening with perennial plants in our challenging high desert climate of Santa Fe, NM for over 25 years. In this booklet, we have distilled the best techniques for successfully transplanting and growing the plants we sell through our catalog and store.

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**IMPORTANT: IMMEDIATELY REMOVE
PLANTS FROM PLASTIC SHIPPING BAGS
AND READ PAGE 2 OF THIS BOOKLET**

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When You Receive Your Plants

Remove plants from the shipping box. **Take off the plastic shipping bags or foam pads** and water plants thoroughly, if dry. Your plants are well-rooted and **ready to plant outside in your garden.**

If you are unable to transplant them right away, place the plants outdoors in a spot receiving morning sun only; too much afternoon sun can dry out the plants. Check soil moisture daily, but water thoroughly **only when needed.** Keep the soil in the pot moist but **not soggy. Plant no later than 7-10 days after you receive your plants.**

We carefully pack your plants to arrive in excellent condition. However, even careful packaging can't protect against damage as a result of rough, careless handling. **Please report any damaged plants or problems to Customer Service at 1-800-925-9387 or plants@highcountrygardens.com immediately.**

Dormant Plants

Most perennial plants go into a state of winter rest as a result of the cold temperatures and short daylight hours of winter. These sleeping plants lose their stems and leaves and are dormant, not dead! They re-grow from their roots with the arrival of spring. Certain perennials wake up from dormancy much later in the spring than others*. These include *Ceratostigma* (Hardy Plumbago), *Echinacea* (Coneflowers), *Helianthus* (Maximilian's Sunflower), *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam' and 'Zagreb', *Oenothera* (Primrose), *Perovskia* (Russian Sage), *Phemeranthus* (Flame Flower), *Zinnia*, *Salvia pitcheri*, *Liatis* and woody shrubs.

We carefully inspect these dormant plants before shipping to make sure their roots and crowns are healthy and ready to grow.

At planting time, water the plants in thoroughly with our recommended root stimulator combination of *Saltwater Farm's SeaCom-PGR* and *SuperThrive*®. Apply one or two times until new growth begins to show. Dormant plants need less frequent watering than those in active growth; water only as the soil dries. Dormant perennials will begin to wake up and grow 2 to 8 weeks after planting depending on how quickly the soil warms up.

* A special note about successfully transplanting *Zinnia grandiflora* and *Phemeranthus calycinum*:

These plants won't begin to grow until warm summer weather has arrived. The long thin string-like roots are brittle and do not like to be disturbed when transplanting, so don't scratch out the rootball. When transplanting while it is still cold, water the plant thoroughly only once. Continued watering during cold weather will rot the roots. Don't start to water regularly until the weather warms and the plants begin to grow.

Soil Preparation

Great gardens start with great soil! Good soil preparation is essential to successful gardening. Healthy, living soil should have good tilth, nutrient content and a viable population of beneficial microorganisms. We recommend using natural and organic ingredients to prepare the soil and maintain soil fertility.

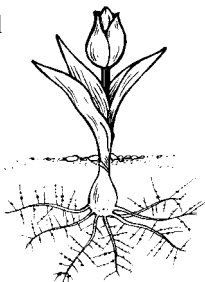
It is always a good idea to have a soil test to identify your soil type (sandy, loam, silt, clay etc.) and find out your soil pH.

When Planting into Existing Flower Beds: Use small amounts of each amendment listed below in individual planting holes.

When Preparing New Flower Beds or Digging Individual Holes into Unamended Soil: The following soil amendments should be added to loosen the soil and add nutrients. Loosen and work in the amendments to a depth of 12".

- **Soil Mender™ Rock Phosphate 0-3-0:** Use at 2 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of bed area or a small amount (a tablespoon) in each planting hole. This natural phosphate source is essential for flowering and root growth.
- **Planters II trace mineral fertilizer:** use 2 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of bed area or a small amount (a tablespoon) in each planting hole. This natural product boosts the trace mineral levels in the soil and creates healthy microbial populations in the soil.
- **Yum Yum Mix™:** Use *Yum Yum Mix* at the rate of 4 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of bed area or a handful in each planting hole. This organic fertilizer adds a complete spectrum of nutrient to the soil. Organic fertilizers feed the soil micro-organisms that digest the ingredients and release available nutrients to plant roots.
- **Compost:** Add a good quality, thoroughly rotted compost to the soil at the rate of ½ to 1 cu. yd. per 100 sq. ft. of bed area or a generous handful to each planting hole. Some compost is more concentrated than others and should be used according to the label's directions.
- **Soil Mender Expanded Shale:** Essential to loosen clay soils, or in areas east of the Mississippi (see pg. 4). Also useful mixed into sandy areas to aid in water retention. Thousand of tiny pores in the expanded shale quickly absorb moisture and slowly release it into your soil. Work 1-3 inches of *Expanded Shale* into the top 6 inches of your soil.

- **Earth Magic™ and Protein Crumbles™:** A soil microbial root booster which is especially essential when planting into disturbed, compacted soils (yards in subdivisions or building sites). Also very beneficial for xeric native and adapted xeric plants. Spread onto the soil surface after planting and water it in. (See label directions for how much to use.) These symbiotic microbial organisms attach to plant roots and help the roots extract water and nutrients from the soil.



Planting Xeric and Very Xeric Plants (☞ ✕): These plants dislike very rich (high organic matter content), water retentive soils. When planting use only *Planters II*, *Yum Yum Mix*, and rock phosphate. Don't use compost when planting or fertilizing. With continued use, this will make the soil too rich and water retentive.

Water Retention in Arid Climates or Regions with Hot, Dry Summer Weather: Incorporate *Quench™* water holding granules into the soil at planting time (1 teaspoon of dry granules per 8" x 8" hole or 1 tablespoon of dry granules per 12" x 12" hole) holds extra water in the planting hole for improved transplanting success. These granules can be used with xeric and non-xeric plants.

If You Live East of the Mississippi (or in the Pacific Northwest):

- **Acid Soils:** These acidic soils need lime added to bring soil pH up to neutral (pH 7). Many of our plants are native to alkaline soils and need to have soil acidity reduced.
- **Planting Xeric Plants (☞ ✕):** Xeric plants need excellent soil drainage especially in areas with 30" or more of rainfall per year (or over the winter months). Water retentive soils (clay, clay-loam or silty-clay) need to be amended with *Soil Mender™ Expanded Shale*, very coarse sand or chicken grit to improve drainage. Mix one shovel of soil (1 part) with one to three shovels of drainage material (1 to 3 parts) to fill a raised bed or build a berm (soil mounds). The more rainfall your region receives the more drainage material should be mixed into the soil.

In addition to drainage material, mix *Planters II*, *Yum Yum Mix*, rock phosphate (and lime if needed) into soil at recommended rates.

Planting Instructions

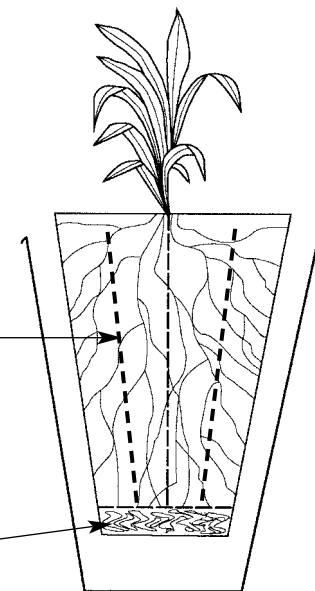
TO REMOVE PLANTS FROM THEIR POTS

Don't lift the plants from their pots by pulling on the leaves and stems!!

Instead gently squeeze the sides of the pot to loosen the soil. Holding the plant, turn the pot upside down and push your thumb against the bottom of the pot. This should free the root ball from the sides of the pot and let the plant drop down into your hand. If the plant is stubborn, be sure soil is moist, then gently tap a top corner of the upside down pot against the edge of a table or work bench.

Once the plant has been removed from the pot, the roots must be prepared for planting. Make several 1/4" deep cuts through the surface of the roots with the sharp corner of the plastic plant tag or the blade of a pocket knife on each side of the root ball.

Tear or cut off matted roots from bottom of root ball if present.



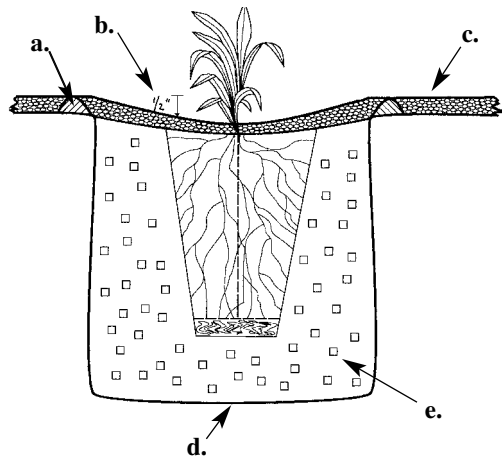
Roughing Out the Roots: Before placing a pot-grown plant into the ground, be sure to prepare the roots for planting. Use a sharp corner of the plastic tag or a pocket knife to make vertical cuts top-to-bottom, several on each side of the root ball, and several cuts across the base; cut into the rootball about 1/4" deep. With your finger tips, lightly rough out the roots, side and bottom, so the soil ball has a fuzzy surface. This will ensure that the roots grow widely and vigorously into the surrounding soil and not continue to grow in the shape of the pot in which it was grown. (See diagram above for details.)

Placing the Plants in the Planting Hole: Set the plant down into the hole, being careful to set the top of the root ball even with the surrounding ground. Firm the soil gently into place with your fingers. Don't pack the soil too tightly with a tool handle and **never** water the soil as you are planting. Water the plants **after** they are in the ground. Water several times to settle the soil in the planting hole and thoroughly soak the soil surrounding the planting hole. By spreading a natural material over the surface of your soil, you can slow evaporation, discourage weeds, and help your plants to thrive.

PLANTING DIAGRAM (cross-section)

The key to beautiful perennial flower beds is to enrich the soil with plenty of compost and soil minerals. (like phosphate and *Planters II*).

- A ridge of soil around the planting hole will hold water and allow it to soak in deeply.
- In dry, hard-to-water areas, a shallow ($\frac{1}{2}$ " "saucer" below grade of the surrounding soil will help hold water even as the ridge of soil begins to erode.
- A 1" to 2" layer of mulch.
- If planting individual plants outside of a prepared planting bed, dig at least a 12" deep x 12" wide hole for each plant.
- Mix *Quench* water holding crystals thoroughly into the soil of the planting hole. (Especially important for rock gardens and xeriscape plantings.)



Mulching

Mulching in Arid, Western Climates

In these regions, mulching is an essential gardening technique. Blanketing the top of the soil with mulch materials improves plant growth and flowering by:

- Conserving valuable soil moisture by shading the soil from the sun's heat.
- Protecting shallow plant roots from temperature extremes in summer and winter.
- Suppressing weed growth.
- Adding valuable organic matter to the soil as it breaks down.
- Helping to capture rainwater by preventing rapid run-off from impermeable soil surfaces (gravel is particularly good for water harvesting).

Apply a 1" to 2" layer of mulch at planting time. See "Planting Diagram" on page 6 for specific techniques.

Good Mulch Materials Include:

- *Soil Mender™ Mulch* or other coarse organic compost.
- Coarse non-packing organic materials such as rotted bark mulch, shredded bark, small bark chips, pine needles or crushed nut shells.
- Crushed gravel ($\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter).

Woven weed barrier fabric can be placed under mulch materials to further suppress weed growth.

Mulching Materials for Different Groups of Plants

- **Hardy Garden Perennials**, non-xeric groundcovers, non-xeric ornamental grasses and non-xeric shrubs: These plants do well with *Soil Mender™ Mulch*, coarse textured organic compost, rotted bark mulch, shredded bark, small bark chips, pine needles and crushed nut shells.
- **Xeric and Very Xeric Plants**, cacti, succulents (☞ ☒): Crushed gravel, pine needles and crushed nut shells are best. These plants will rot if mulched with moisture absorbing mulch materials like compost and bark.

Mulching East of the Mississippi (or in the Pacific Northwest)

Mulching is usually not needed in high rainfall regions and is not recommended in areas where slugs are a problem.

In the Pacific NW, mulch should be used during the hot, dry summer months and removed (or pulled back from around the plants) before winter. Gravel mulch can be left in place year-round.

Care and Maintenance

Protecting Your Perennials from Freezing Temperatures

Unless marked with an “I’m a Tender Plant” tag, our perennials are frost hardened and very cold tolerant. Light frosts will not harm them. However, please remember that even frost hardened plants will **need to be covered** with row crop cover, such as *N-Sulate*™ (see web) fabric or plastic if a spring storm drops night temperatures to **25°F or lower** and there is no snow cover. Just 4°-5°F of cold protection, with a protective covering, will get the plants through in good shape. **Snow on top of newly planted perennials will cause no damage**; it will help insulate them from cold air temperatures.

Stimulating New Root Growth

Perennial plants depend on the growth of their vigorous root systems to thrive. Get your plants off to the best possible start by using a mixture of *SeaCom-PGR* and *Superthrive* (a plant growth stimulant) to soak the root zone at planting time. Mix together 1 teaspoon of *SeaCom-PGR* and ¼ teaspoon of *Superthrive* per gallon of water. Water first with clear water, wait a few minutes, then saturate the root ball and surrounding soil with the *SeaCom-PGR/Superthrive* mixture. Re-apply this mixture once more two weeks later for optimum results.

Forgot to order your SeaCom-PGR and Superthrive? No problem, just call our toll free order number (800) 925-9387 or order online and we'll get it right out to you.

Watering

Carefully check newly transplanted perennials for sufficient soil moisture, especially during hot weather. There are no timetables for watering, as watering requirements vary from season to season and according to local weather.

Properly planted and mulched perennials **should not** require daily watering. When you water, water thoroughly. Fill the water “saucer” around each plant twice to insure that the soil is well soaked; light overhead sprinklings are not sufficient.

Be careful not to over-water dormant plants! An initial soaking at planting time is essential. Re-water only when the soil dries out a bit. Regular watering can begin when the plants start to show vigorous new growth.

Fertilizing

It may be helpful during the first growing season to apply some fertilizer, especially in poor soil areas. *Earth Juice*™ 2-1-1, *Yum Yum Mix*, or another low nitrogen with phosphorous fertilizer applied one to two times during the spring and summer months will give plants a gentle boost.

A Note About Getting Xeric (Waterwise) Plants Off to a Good Start

Some gardeners prefer not to enrich the soil for xeric *Penstemons* and other native plants that are used to growing in poor, humus deficient soils. Instead, they simply loosen the soil with a shovel before planting to open the soil for improved water and penetration. However, we strongly suggest you improve the soil with *Yum Yum Mix*, *Planters II* and rock phosphate at the recommended rates. (See page 3 of this booklet.)

Don't automatically water xeric plants with the same frequency as non-xeric plants. Four to six weeks after transplanting, the plants will have begun to grow and watering frequency can be decreased for many xeric species (if the weather is not too hot). Always check the soil moisture before watering, then soak thoroughly if dry.

Mulching is beneficial for xeric native and rock garden plants, but use an 1"-2" thick layer of gravel mulch or 1"-2" thick layer of some other non-packing mulch like pine needles. Using compost or bark chips as recommended for hardy garden perennials will keep the crown of xeric species too wet over the winter months and result in crown rot.

Fall Plant Care

Fall is a great time for planting. It's a proven fact that fall planting gets perennial flowers, shrubs and trees off to a faster, more vigorous start the following spring. You won't see a lot of stem and leaf growth in the fall, because the plants are busy growing new roots! With the arrival of spring, the fall-planted garden is ready to burst forth with vigorous new growth and a profusion of flowers. Xeric Perennials will have a well-developed root system to better cope with the summer heat and dryness.

Mulching is Essential to Successful Fall Planting

A 1-2" thick layer of compost or other organic material will keep plants from drying out in the dry fall weather, and will help to keep soil frozen over the spring months to prevent frost heaving of the roots.

Fall Watering

In dry climates, plants need consistent watering over the fall months. Water regularly over late-summer and into fall, decreasing frequency as the daytime temperatures cool.

Improving Cold Hardiness

Many perennial plants will withstand cold winters better if their stems are left standing over the winter. *Zauschneria*, *Salvia greggii* and *greggii* type hybrids, *Gaura* and *Agastache* are best left standing for winter and cut back in mid-spring. Leave ornamental grasses uncut until spring for winter interest.

Fall Feeding

Most xeric plants are light feeders. October is an ideal time to fertilize. Apply *Yum Yum Mix 'Winterizer'* or other organic fertilizers or high quality compost when the fall root growth cycle is in full swing. Add *Earth Magic* and/or *Protein Crumbles*. Check your mulch level and replenish as necessary.

Winter Plant Care

Western Gardens

In dry western climates, watering is crucial during the winter months. In regions with winter rains and/or winter-long snow cover, you only need be concerned in the case of a winter drought. Water at regular intervals through the fall until daytime temperatures cool in late October/November. When the soil begins to freeze, soak it once every month through the winter months, except when it's very cold, the ground is solidly frozen or there is snow cover.

Gardens East of the Mississippi (and the Pacific Northwest)

For Xeric Perennials, protection from excess winter moisture is critical. Wet, freezing/thawing soil conditions will rot xeric plants. Protect them by planting under a roof overhang, or placing a movable cold frame over plants in their flower bed. You may also cover your xeric plants with a crop cover fabric such as *N-Sulate™* (see website).

Cacti and Succulents

All our cacti, agaves and succulents are seed-grown or cutting-grown here in our greenhouses. Cacti and agave plants are 2-4 years old; succulents are 1-2 years old. *Please*, never collect cacti from the wild unless it's to rescue plants from construction sites. Many species are close to extinction in their native habitats due to irresponsible collectors.

Dormant Plants

Cacti shipped early in the spring may be **dormant**, as they are over-wintered in an unheated cold frame. Many species will appear **shrunken** and some will also have their **reddish winter color**. As the weather warms, these cacti will expand and green-up. Remember, after an initial watering to settle the soil around the roots, no further water should be applied until the weather warms up. If plants are dormant and the spring weather is rainy, protect the plants from too much moisture by covering them with a gallon plastic milk container with the bottom cut out. Leave the top off the jug so heat build up isn't excessive in sunny weather.

Soil Preparation

All the species of hardy cacti and succulents require fast-draining soil.

1. **Planting in the ground.** Put the plants on a slope or raised area of the garden, not in a low spot which collects water. Select a bed with full sun exposure, preferably next to a south or west facing wall. These areas will provide extra winter warmth. In heavy clay soils, it is **essential** to replace **half or more of** the soil from a 10"x10" or larger hole with coarse sand and gravel mixed thoroughly with the remaining soil to insure adequate drainage. No compost should be added, only a small handful of *Planters II* and *Yum Yum Mix*.
2. **Planting in an outdoor pot or planter.** Use a planting mix of 3 parts garden soil + 2 parts coarse sand + 2 parts coarse perlite or *Soil Mender Expanded Shale* (or similar material). When growing plants indoors in pots, use a good quality potting soil to mix with the sand and expanded shale instead of garden soil.

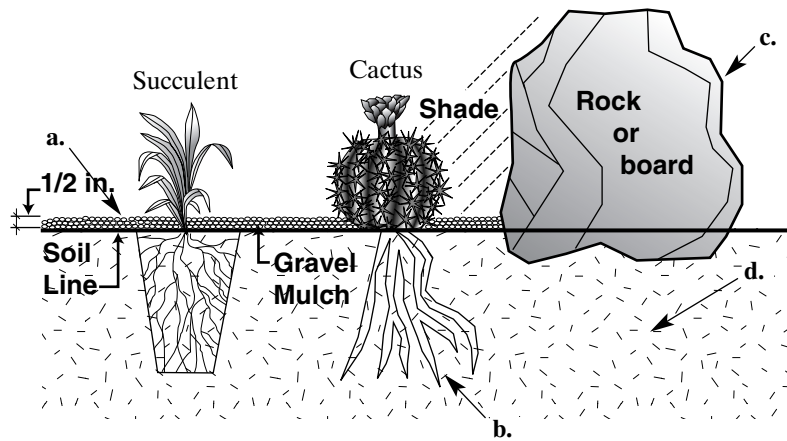
Planting Instructions (See planting diagram on page 12.)

1. **Cacti and agaves, and tap-rooted succulents** (*Aloinopsis*, *Titanopsis*, *Nananthus*) should be **transplanted bare-root**. Let the soil in the pot dry out for a few days. Then remove the pot and gently loosen the soil so it falls away from the roots. Trim off any broken roots. Bare root plants should then be planted into a shallow hole. Spread out the roots evenly and sprinkle the soil into the hole until full. The base of the plant should rest on top of the soil. Mulch with a ½"-1" thick layer of pea-sized gravel around the base of the plant to protect it from contact with soggy soil over the winter months.
2. **Succulents with fibrous roots** (*Ruschia*, *Delosperma*, *Sedums* and others) need not be transplanted bare-root, instead the root ball should be scored and roughed out like other perennials.

Watering

1. **Bare-root cacti and tap-rooted succulents** must not be watered right away, but should sit dry for a day or two to allow the roots to callus over any broken or damaged areas. Other succulents can be watered in right away. Water thoroughly with a mixture of *SeaCom-PGR* and *Superthrive* to stimulate strong new root growth. Water again with this mixture two weeks later.
2. **Outdoor beds** with new plants should be initially watered once every 5 to 7 days for the first month or so after transplanting. Cacti and succulents enjoy regular watering during the heat of the summer and will grow vigorously. After the first year, most cacti species need a good soaking only once every 2-4 weeks during the spring and summer if there has been no rain.
3. **Potted plants** require more frequent, regular watering, especially if the weather is hot and dry.
4. **To prepare cacti and succulents for the approach of winter**, begin withholding water in the fall so the plants can begin to dehydrate and shrivel. Plump, well watered plants are ripe for cold damage when temperatures plunge in late fall/early winter.

CACTI AND SUCCULENT PLANTING DIAGRAM



When planting cacti and succulents, be sure to provide fast draining soil conditions. Plant the crown of the plants high. Gravel mulch should be used to protect the plant's crown from excessive moisture in the winter/early spring.

- a. Potted succulents should have $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " of soil scraped away from the top of the root ball, to make room for gravel mulch.
- b. Cacti and agaves and tap-rooted succulents should always be **transplanted bare-root**. (See page 11).
- c. If summer planting, use a tall rock or board on the south side of the cacti to shade for 7-10 days. This helps the cactus to acclimate to the strong sun and avoid sunburning the stem.
- d. If planting into clay, mix 3 parts coarse sand and 1 part soil from the planting hole for faster soil drainage. The planting hole needs to be **at least 10" wide x 10" deep**. All soil types need addition of *Planters II* at recommended rates when preparing the planting hole.

Fertilizing

Cacti and succulents are very modest in their fertilizer requirements. When planted in the ground, fertilize in spring with *SeaCom-PGR* and *Yum Yum Mix* will encourage plentiful flowers and good stem growth. When planted in pots, remember to feed monthly with the same mixture as above, beginning in late spring and continuing through late summer.

Winter Protection

Garden plants: Many cacti and succulents are quite cold hardy if kept dry in the cold winter and spring months. In areas that receive a lot of winter and spring moisture (especially rain), it is strongly recommended that plants be protected from cold, wet soil conditions. For example, a temporary cold frame can be constructed using pipe or PVC hoops covered with a clear plastic sheet to cover the entire bed. Or individual plants can be covered with plastic gallon milk jugs with the bottom cut out to keep the ground around the plants dry. Leave the top off the jug so heat build up isn't excessive in sunny weather. Problems will occur if plants are in wet soil all winter or sit under melting snow for extended periods.

Potted plants: Should be moved under a roof overhang on the south or west side of the house or placed in a well ventilated cold frame. Water pots and other containers lightly a few times over the winter during warm spells.

Moisture Tolerance

1. **The most moisture tolerant species** (best adapted for growing outdoors in areas where cacti are not native plants) include: *Coryphantha vivipara*, *Echinocereus reichenbachii* varieties, *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, *Pediocactus simpsonii*, *Escobaria missouriensis*, and various *Opuntia* (pad cacti) species.
2. **South African Succulents** are very sensitive to wet soil in freezing weather. They particularly dislike being covered with snow for extended periods and will rot out. When kept dry, these plants have excellent cold tolerance. Plant them wedged between rocks, in sloped south and west facing beds where snow melts quickly and the soil is very well drained. In cold, wet winter climates these plants should be container grown so they can be moved into cold frames or under roof overhangs during the winter. Also, be on the lookout for hungry rabbits; they will occasionally nibble on these succulents. To deter rabbits we suggest *Plantskydd* repellent (catalog or online).

Companion Plants for Cacti and Succulents

Many xeric plants can be interplanted with cacti and succulents to make colorful and interesting garden groupings.

Herbaceous perennials include various xeric *Penstemons*, *Zinnia grandiflora* and *Zinnia acerosa*, *Tanacetum densum* v. *amanum*, *Zauschneria* species, *Lavandula* varieties, *Aethionema* species, *Anacyclus depressus*, *Achillea ageratifolia*, *Hymenoxys* species, *Veronica cinerea*, *Acantholimon* species, *Calylophus* species, and other native species.

Woody shrubs include *Artemisia tridentata*, *Falugia paradoxa*, *Cercocarpus* species, *Cowania mexicana*, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, and others.

How to Plant Bulbs

Fall Blooming Crocus

We recommend planting these “gems” as soon as you receive them. Plant 2" apart and as much as 8" deep, adding sharp gravel around the corms (bulb-like root) to deter moles or gophers (if they are a problem). Otherwise, the gravel is not needed. Because the corms can be planted so deeply, plant groundcovers such as Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium*), various creeping Speedwell (*Veronica*) and Soapwort (*Saponaria*) over them. As they poke up through the ground in the autumn, the flowers are supported by the groundcover’s foliage. Fall Blooming Crocus prefer full sun to partial shade, well drained soils and dry summer soils. The grass-like foliage follows later and continues to grow after the flowers fade.

Spring Blooming Bulbs

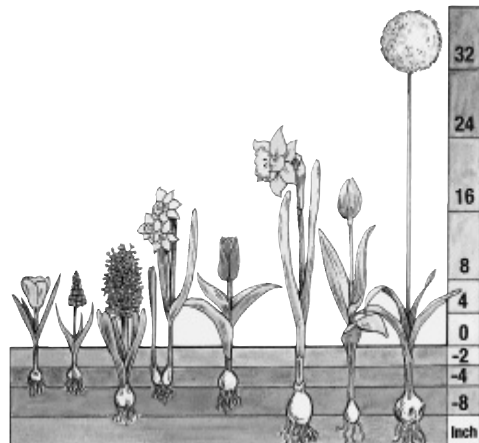
When you receive your spring bulbs keep them in a dry, dark, cool place until ready to plant. They need air circulation so they will not collect moisture and rot. Planting times can vary from early October in the North to mid-to-late November in the southern regions. A good rule of thumb is to plant them about 6 weeks before the ground is frozen or after the first hard freeze.

Bulb Depth Chart

Use chart to determine appropriate bulb depth.

BULB DEPTH PLANTING GUIDE

1. Crocus & miniature Iris
2. Grape hyacinth
3. Hyacinth
4. Wildflower & miniature daffodils
5. Wildflower tulips, small allium & wildflower bulbs
6. Garden daffodils
7. Darwin hybrid tulips
8. Large ornamental allium



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.

Soil Preparation for Bulbs

A compost enriched, well-drained soil is best. Incorporate a good quality organic compost as needed. *Yum Yum Mix* is recommended as an excellent source of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium needed for strong plants and healthy roots. Mix a small amount into the bottom of the hole before planting your bulbs.

Many bulbs prefer a full sun exposure. However, *Muscaria*, *Allium*, *Galanthus*, *Hyacinthoides*, *Scilla* and many daffodils will tolerate partial shade and bloom well. Pink daffodils will hold their color longer if planted in dappled shade or morning sun/afternoon shade.

After planting add a top dressing of compost or other organic material and water in thoroughly. If your winter is dry, water every three to four weeks throughout the winter and add more mulch if necessary.

Protect your Bulbs

Bulb Guard is especially recommended for tulip bulbs in areas where gophers and/or moles are a threat. Bulbs are soaked before planting to make them unpalatable. In future years, apply *Chase Mole and Gopher Repellent* (in liquid or pellets) to the surface of the ground to protect them from these burrowing mammals. As bulbs sprout, use our *Deer Repellent 3 Pack* to prevent deer and rabbits from browsing your spring blooms. (See website or catalog for these products.)

After your Bulbs have Bloomed

Once your bulbs have bloomed, allow the bulb foliage to brown and fade naturally, since the leaves are feeding the bulb in the ground. Removal of foliage weakens the bulb and leads to fewer blooms the following year. Planting your bulbs amongst your perennials is one way to conceal the dying bulb foliage. The perennials begin to grow and fill out as the bulb foliage dies back. The perennials will then provide foliage and color in the garden from late spring through the summer and into fall. Regular fertilization with balanced organic or natural fertilizer and a re-application of mulch each fall will insure more and more beautiful spring bulb blooms for many years!

Please feel free to contact us with more horticultural questions,
or for customer service at:

1-800-925-9387 Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm MT
or email us at: plants@highcountrygardens.com

For more gardening information and the latest plants and products,
please visit us at www.highcountrygardens.com.