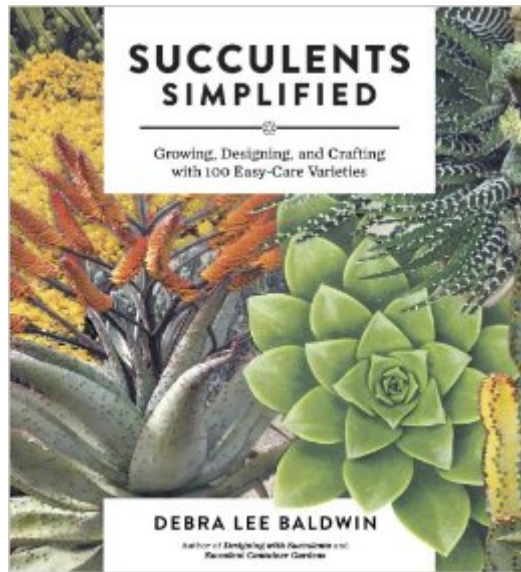


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Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, And Crafting With 100 Easy-Care Varieties



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. 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.

Succulents Simplified covers all aspects of succulent gardening, whether you grow them outdoors, in containers or use them for crafting projects. Despite the fact that I have been doing all of these things with succulents for the last four years, I often feel like I'm just winging it. This book is now my go-to source for caring for my existing collection as well as for choosing new varieties. The book goes well beyond listing solid, easy-care succulents choices (although it does that as well), and includes a range of essential information, such as how to refresh succulents in containers, companion plants, and a terrific "what's wrong with my succulent" Q and A. The format features breakout boxes, checklists, and detailed how-to photographs, making it easy for me to find answers to specific questions, or page through for design inspiration or a craft project to try. The format is particularly user-friendly. Any succulent lover will appreciate the wealth of information provided, but beginner and intermediate succulent gardeners will find it particularly helpful.

Debra Lee Baldwin has hit a homerun again for succulent gardening. This time, Debra is targeting those really new to succulents and this book helps take the mystery out of learning how to garden successfully with succulents. Gorgeous photos, excellent descriptions and instructions. This is a wonderful complement to Debra's other two succulent books, "*Succulent Container Gardens: Design Eye-Catching Displays with 350 Easy-Care Plants*" and "*Designing with Succulents*", both previous books considered the top succulent gardening resource books on the market today. My books from Debra Lee Baldwin have earned a spot next to the "*Sunset Western Garden Book*" as my top 10 most valuable gardening resource books in my gardening library. This book will be one of my "go to" succulent books. Well done, Debra, another fantastic book. Will be on my holiday gift list to my fellow gardening friends and family!

Succulent gardening and landscaping author Debra Lee Baldwin provides a vast amount of up-to-date information on the the subject of succulents in her latest book, "*Succulents Simplified*". Baldwin's insight into the growth, maintenance and selection of succulent plants for

gardening and landscaping is explained in simple terms to help demystify the subject of succulents. I was impressed by how thoroughly and personally the author explains the original content of each chapter in her book. As a landscape designer, I was especially gratified to read the author's section entitled, "Good riddance to your lawn". My recent clients for the past several years have been "trending" toward wanting to remove their water thirsty front lawns and replace the grass areas with drought tolerant plants, consisting mostly of succulents. Baldwin expounds the benefits of this trend and then elaborates on the topic of "Low-Water, Not No-Water, Plants", explaining that indeed most hot climates require succulents to be watered during dry spells, then goes into detail why overwatering is usually more a problem for succulents than under-watering. The photographs in the book (the majority taken by the author) are exceptional, each one helping to provide clarity to the accompanying text. Whether you are a seasoned expert gardener, or just starting to discover the magic of what succulents have to offer, you'll be delighted with the wide ranging subject matter of this must have gardening book. Garden Guru

This is the first and only book I have read on care of succulents Pros: the descriptions of 100 easy-care varieties was great, good examples to help you understand designing with succulents, and the projects look good and easily adapt to individual tastes. Cons: the author could spend less time trying to sell you on the benefits of succulents and more time on propagation and care

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