

Grow Easy-Care *Cacti and Succulents*



Inspiration from

Costa
Farms®



Grow your garden with **cacti and succulents.**

They're some of the *hottest* plants around!

There's undeniable appeal to easy-care, low-water **cacti and succulents**. They're textural, colorful, and don't need a lot of water, making them an ideal solution if you're looking to add interest—indoors or out—with interesting, low-maintenance plants.

Over the next few pages of this guide, you'll find **ideas for displaying** cacti and succulents and in and around your home, as well as **container gardening and landscaping ideas** for your yard, patio, porch, deck, or balcony. You can always find more helpful ideas on our website at www.costafarms.com, or email our cacti and succulents experts at information@costafarms.com

—The Costa Farms Team

If you haven't tried cacti and succulents yet, there are so many reasons to add them to your gardening and decorating efforts!

They're Low-Water Plants

That's probably the most exciting thing about cacti and succulents. Whether you grow them indoors or out, the plants don't mind if you don't have a chance (or forget) to water them every now and again.

They're Oh-So Textural

While we tend to focus on color when designing our gardens, playing with textures makes a world of difference. And cacti and succulents bring in a wide variety of textures that combine well together, but also are ideal complements/contrasts to other garden plants.

They're Amazing in Containers

Container gardening is easier than ever with cacti and succulents. They thrive in hot, dry spots where other flowers sometimes fail. And because many varieties are small and slow-growing, you don't need to worry about them taking over.

They're Ideal for DIY Projects

There's an unlimited number of ways you can use cacti and succulents in crafty, fun DIY projects. Whether you want to plant them in funky containers (like a vintage pair of shoes) or go super modern, they look great anywhere. Because of their low water needs, these plants are fabulous in living walls and vertical gardens, too!



Care for Cacti and Succulents

Grow like a pro with these super-simple tips!



Repotting

Cacti and succulents often have smaller root systems than other garden plants so they don't need frequent repotting. Depending on the variety, it may be as little as once every three or four years. Repot when the roots tightly fill the inside of the container or the plant grows too large to stay stable in its container.

Light

When it comes to cacti and succulents, there's one simple rule: The more light, the better! A sunny windowsill is perfect, but you can also enjoy success under artificial lights.

Water

So just how much water do cacti and succulents need? You want the potting mix to dry between waterings to prevent rot. Indoors, insert a toothpick in the drainage hole; if it comes out clean, it's time to water. If the toothpick comes out with bits of potting mix attached, it's probably fine. If in doubt, it's better to keep your plants a little too dry than a little too wet. On average, cacti and succulents indoors benefit from watering once every 10 to 14 days or so.

Pruning

Cacti and succulents don't require much pruning. You can remove any old succulent leaves that die of old age.

Fertilizing

Slow-growing cacti and succulents don't need a lot of feeding, but if you want them to grow bigger, faster, use a general-purpose product in spring and summer. Follow the directions on the packaging to know how much fertilizer to use.



Decorate with Succulents

Get ideas to go bold in your home with these textural plants.



Beautify Your Favorite Windowsill

Because they like so much light, small succulents are ideal for adding color and texture to your south-, west-, east-, or even bright north-facing windowsills!

Here's a hint: Some succulents with reddish or purple leaves will be more colorful with more light. If they don't get enough sun, their leaves will be green



Make a Striking Centerpiece

Their low-growing nature makes succulents an ideal choice for centerpiece plants on your dining room table, side table, or coffee table. There's a succulent for practically every decor style! And, special occasions, such as graduations, are an ideal time get a new centerpiece planter or make your own.

Here's a hint: Succulents are high-light plants, so if you're growing them in a dim spot, swap the plants occasionally so the they can bask in a brighter place and recharge their batteries.



Modernize Your Mantle

If you have a bright mantle, adding easy-care succulents is a surefire way you can make it look more stylish all year long. Here, a succulent bowl with panda plant, a couple of varieties of echeveria, and a crassula puts on an elegant show with variegated haworthia and snake plant.

Here's a hint: Ensure your mantle doesn't get too hot for plants if you use your fireplace during the winter months. Likewise, if you're in a cold-winter climate, be sure your mantle isn't too cool and drafty.

Brighten Dark Decor

Many succulents are light in color, so they can add a powerful punch in a room filled with deep, rich colors. For example, they look great on a dark granite counter top or dark wood table.

Fun fact: Most have evolved their light colors to reflect light away, helping the plants survive the summer sun in their native habitats.

Enjoy a Dish Garden

Easy-care dish gardens are perfect gifts and elegant home—or office—decor.



A



B



C



D

A. Add Elegance to Offices

Textural cacti and succulents add a big dose of drama to bright offices. Their low-care nature makes them a hit, too! Color coordinate pot colors with your office's decor for a designed look.

B. Paint with Colorful Cacti

We tend to think of all cacti as looking the same, but dig into this fascinating group of plants and you'll find a wide variety of colors, textures, shapes, and sizes.

C. Color-Coordinate Containers

Highlight the container, as well as the plants! The right pot can make as much of a statement—or more—as your plants. Here, the container looks custom-made for the succulents' colors.

D. Go for the Bowl

Because many cacti and succulents are low-growing plants, they're perfect for dishes and bowls, which create an elegant presentation without taking up a ton of vertical space.

Care for Your Containers

You can enjoy success with cacti and succulent gardens with these easy guidelines:

LIGHT

With most varieties, the more light they get, the better they'll do. Direct sun is no problem—in fact, it's encouraged.

No sun? You're still in luck! Cacti and succulents don't mind artificial lights. The illumination from fluorescent lights in corporate offices is usually enough to sustain these plants even if you work in a cubicle.

WATER

Because they've evolved to store water during times of drought, cacti and succulents don't need a lot of water—especially indoors. Once every 10 to 14 days is usually sufficient to keep them happy.

GLUED-PEBBLE MULCH

Many cacti and succulent dish gardens come with a glued-pebble mulch to keep the plants stable in shipping and avoid making a mess in the store. If you want to remove the mulch, moisten it with water and carefully pry it off the soil. When wet, the glue becomes soft and pliable, making it an easy task.

Grow a Terrific Terrarium

Terrariums are super trendy. Here's what you need to know!



Terrariums, like dish gardens, offer you the opportunity to grow a number of varieties together—and in a fun container!

When it comes to the container, anything that lets in light will work. Ideally, you want a container that allows excess water to escape, but it's not necessary if you water carefully. Look for a fun vessel that will match your decor. Be sure to use a potting mix made for cacti and succulents.

Because most cacti and succulent varieties have similar care needs, you can plant just about any cacti and succulents together to create your very own custom-look terrarium.



Terrarium Know-How

Enjoy success with your cacti and succulent terrariums with these quick tips:

LIGHT
Light-loving cacti and succulents thrive in bright places. If it's a closed terrarium (with a lid), keep it out of direct sun so too much heat doesn't build up and bake the plants. Open terrariums can sit in direct sun without harm.

WATER
Many terrarium vessels don't have drainage—so it's important to avoid overwatering. For containers without drainage, water sparingly so a pool of moisture never accumulates at the bottom of your terrarium.

FERTILIZER
Slow-growing cacti and succulents don't need a lot of fertilizer, but they do appreciate some general-purpose indoor plant fertilizer in spring and summer when the days are long and the plants are in active growth.

Enjoy Desert Gems®

What's the hottest trend? Grow colorful cacti!

Desert Gems® colored cacti add a splash of fun and personality everywhere they're used! Here are some common questions about Desert Gems®.

Are They Easy to Grow?

Good news! Like most cacti and succulents, Desert Gems® are a cinch if you have bright spot.

How Much Light Do They Need?

A bright, sunny spot is best. They grow well anywhere they cast a shadow most of the day.

How Much Water Do They Need?

Water Desert Gems® once every 10 to 14 days, but it can vary based on conditions. Let the potting mix dry before watering again.

Are They Artificially Colored?

Yes, the spines of Desert Gems® have been artificially colored. Their new growth will be the natural white color. But don't worry—Desert Gems® are naturally slow growers.



Make Gardening **Easier**

Cacti and succulents make your yard more interesting—and no-fuss.



Easy-care cacti and succulents simplify yard work. They're also ultra stylish! There's a seemingly limitless array of varieties from which you can choose, and the Desert Escape® collection represents some of the best.

Plant Landscape Perennials

In frost-free areas, these plants come back every year and get bigger and more dramatic with age.

Decorate with Garden Annuals

In cold-winter areas, replant Desert Escape® each year. Use them as replacements for more traditional, thirsty annual flowers.

Grow Cacti and Succulents in Your Yard

All Desert Escape® cacti and succulents need is a sunny spot that has well-drained soil.

In heavy clay or low spots in the yard, grow these plants in raised beds. It keeps them happiest when the weather is wet.

Keep weeds at bay with a layer of mulch. Gravel is a top choice because it drains quickly and matches the textural look of Desert Escape®.

Design with Desert Escape®

Low-growing varieties, such as echeverias, are perfect for edging and use in the front of the border. Upright varieties, like African milk tree and Cereus cactus add a vertical element to your garden design.

Pay attention to color, too—silvery echeverias offer amazing contrast to dark green aloes or cacti. There are purple, red, and multi-color varieties!



Create Easy-Care Containers

Low-water cacti and succulents make container gardening a cinch.



Agave, fairy castle, variegated baby jade, flapjacks, echeveria, aloe, and candelabra cactus look right at home together in a rustic wood container.

Pots filled with cacti and succulents offer a distinct look. You'll find a wide variety of colors and textures available, so you can create the perfect look for your deck, patio, balcony, or outdoor space. You'll love how easy Desert Escape® plants are to care for; most need minimal watering—especially if you're in an area that receives natural rainfall.

Cacti and succulents thrive in any sunny spot; just be sure to choose containers that have a drainage hole so excess water escapes and your plants don't drown after a downpour. Keep cacti and succulents happiest by using a potting mix made for these low-water plants.



A groundcover of golden sedum makes aloe, purple echeveria, and red African milk tree pop in a pot.



A trio of grafted cacti with echeveria and orange-yellow Campfire crassula create a colorful combo.



Plant a mass of echeverias together in a low tray for a stunning look. Here, we've complemented it with a desert rose.

Dress up your plantings with a colorful pot topper. Here, teal-colored sand does the trick—and accents the container.



Red African milk tree, Campfire crassula, paddle plant, and echeveria are perfect partners in a pot.



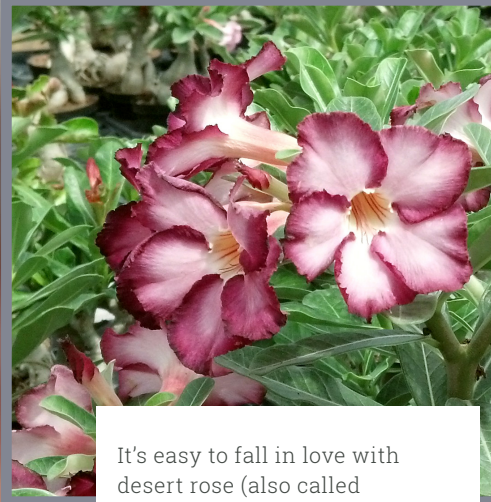
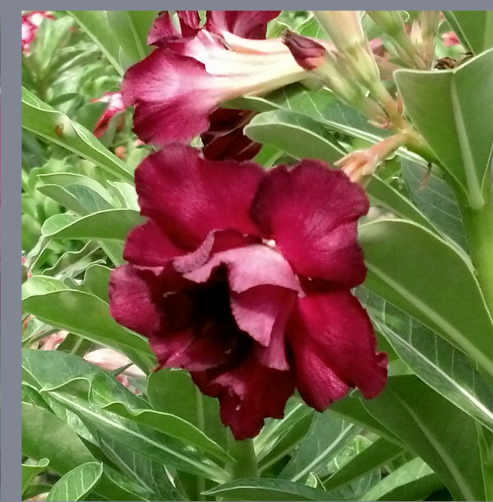
We mixed African milk tree, paddle plant, echeveria, and Campfire crassula for a distinctive look.



Red African milk tree adds height to a mix of echeverias, Campfire crassula, and agave.

Delight in Desert Rose

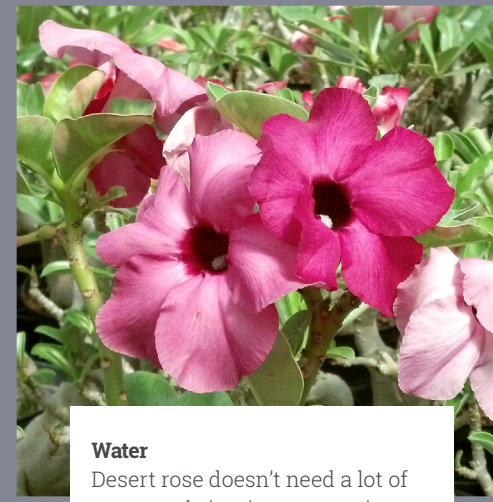
Beautiful desert rose adds high style to any low-water planting.



It's easy to fall in love with desert rose (also called Adenium)—this exotic, xeric-friendly plant is oh-so-simple to grow and shows off large, attractive flowers. It's decidedly different from most other cacti and succulents!

Light

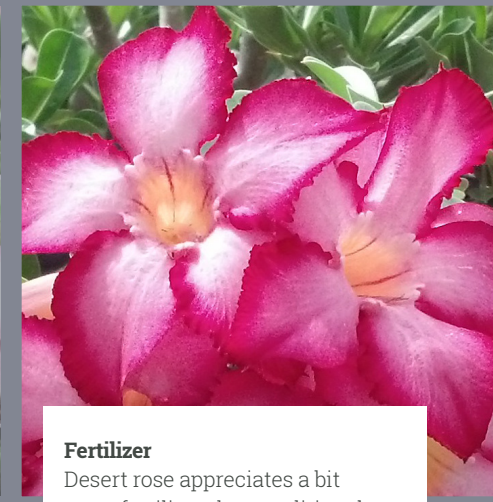
Like its cacti and succulent cousins, desert rose thrives outdoors in full sun (6 to 8 hours of direct light a day). It can be grown in part shade, but it doesn't bloom as profusely.



Water

Desert rose doesn't need a lot of water to thrive; it stores moisture in the thick, bonsai-like trunk. The plant grows beautifully with aloes, agaves, and other succulents.

If desert rose gets too much or too little water, this showy plant can drop its leaves. Give your desert rose a chance if this happens at home—this plant can often recover and put out new growth even after defoliation if it's given good care (lots of light and not-too-much or too-little watering).



Fertilizer

Desert rose appreciates a bit more fertilizer than traditional succulents to support its blooms. It's best to fertilize regularly in spring and summer with a general-purpose product formulated for container-garden plants.

Hardiness

Desert rose is a subtropical plant and doesn't like frosty temperatures. In cold-winter areas, you can bring this beauty in as a houseplant if you have a very bright spot for it.

Get Succulent Savvy

Succulents offer so much variety. Find the best for you!



Our wide selection of succulents practically assures you there's the perfect variety for your favorite spaces—whether you want to grow them indoors or out.

We grow succulents in several sizes, including:

- 2.5-inch-wide pots
- 4-inch-wide pots
- 1-quart pots
- 2.5-quart pots
- 6-inch-wide pots
- 10-inch-wide pots
- 2-gallon pots

Our succulents are produced in Miami, Florida, so everywhere you grow them, you can trust the plants will thrive—no matter how hot and steamy it gets outside.



Flapjacks



Silver squill



Senecio ficoides

1. Flapjacks (*Kalanchoe thyrsiflora*), also called paddle plant, is a favorite because of its large leaves. In time, it can grow 16 inches tall and wide.

2. Silver squill (*Ledebouria socialis*) offers adorable silver-patterned foliage on a tidy plant that grows about 6 inches tall and wide.

3. Senecio ficoides is an upright-growing selection that shows off silvery-blue foliage. It's ideal for adding a vertical feel to plantings. It grows about 12 inches tall and wide.

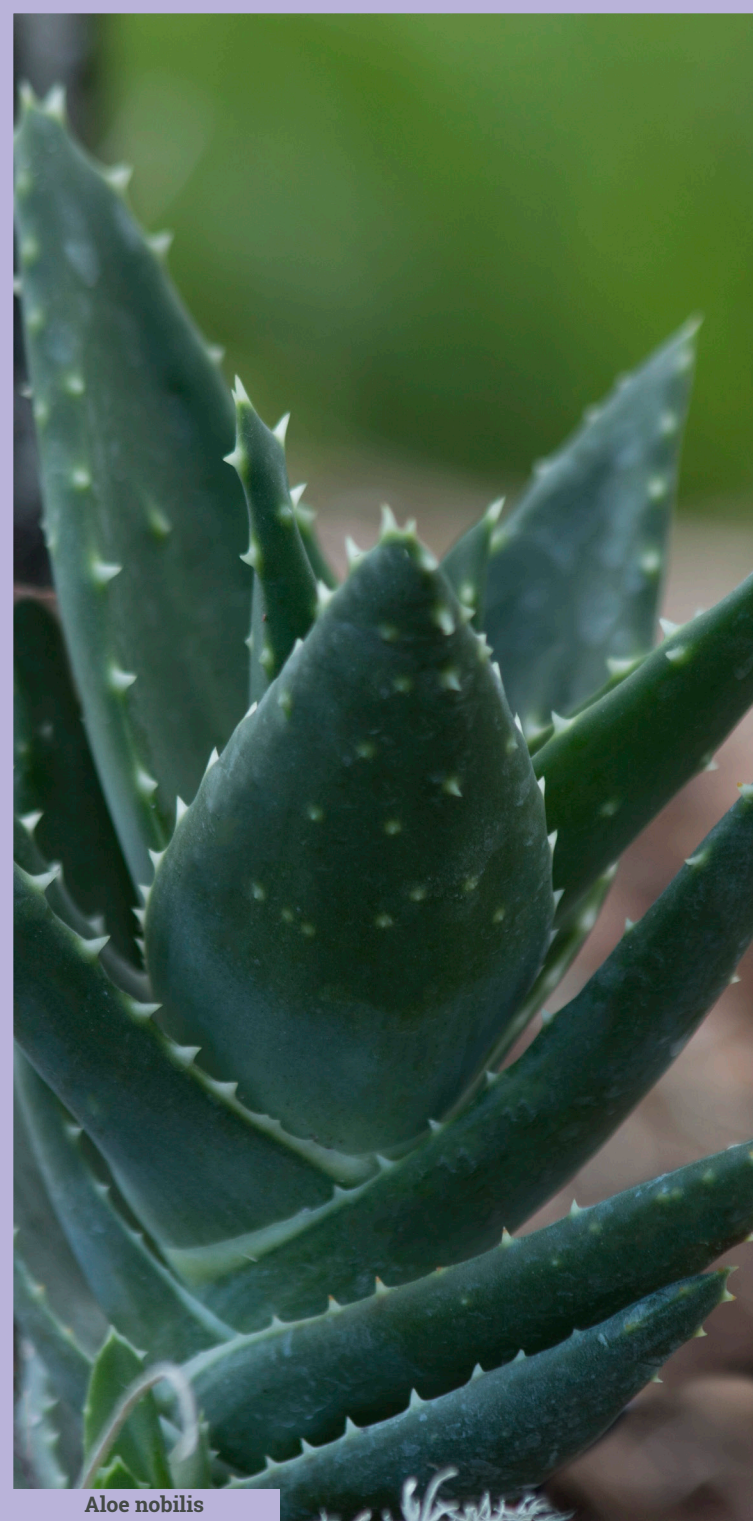
4. Tiger tooth aloe (*Aloe juvenna*) brings interesting mottled leaves to your succulent mix. In good light, it blooms with cheery orange flowers. It grows 12 inches tall and 24 inches wide.



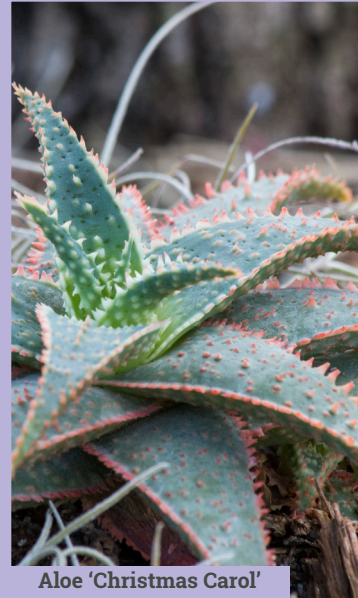
Tiger tooth aloe

Amazing Aloes

Elegant Echeverias



Aloe nobilis



Aloe 'Christmas Carol'



Aloe 'Walmsley's Variegated'

There's more to the aloe clan than old-school aloe vera. Dig into this group of plants and you'll find a fascinating selection of colors, textures, and sizes.

Outdoors, aloes can be used as groundcovers, accent plants, and specimen plants. They grow equally well in garden beds and borders as they do containers. One especially effective way to make the most of aloes is to mix different varieties to create a subtle play of colors and textures. Varieties such as 'Bright Star' and 'Christmas Carol', for example offer intriguing red variegation that complements other types with more gray-green coloring. If you live in a cold-climate area, you can bring aloes indoors before frost and enjoy them as houseplants.

When growing aloe inside, provide as much light as you can—doing so will give you the happiest plants. In especially high-light situations indoors or outdoors, your aloe may bloom with airy spikes of orange, red, or yellow flowers.

When you think about succulents, echeverias are probably what comes to mind. These easy-care succulents are low-growing and create textural mounds that almost look like flowers with their intricate shapes.

Like aloes, echeveria varieties make for outstanding edging plants around the edge of garden beds and borders. We think they're particularly fantastic when you mix different selections to enjoy the differences in color. For example, rich purple 'Black Prince' really stands out when planted with silvery-blue varieties such as ghost echeveria or E. peacockii.

Another way you can create visual magic with echeverias is to mix textures. Ruffled E. shaviana, for example, has a very different look than smooth-leaf types. The same goes for the classic variety 'Topsy Turvy' that has quilled leaves.

You can enjoy echeverias both outdoors in full sun or part shade or indoors in a bright window.



Echeveria setosa



Echeveria 'Black Prince'



Echeveria agavoides

Colorful Kalanchoes

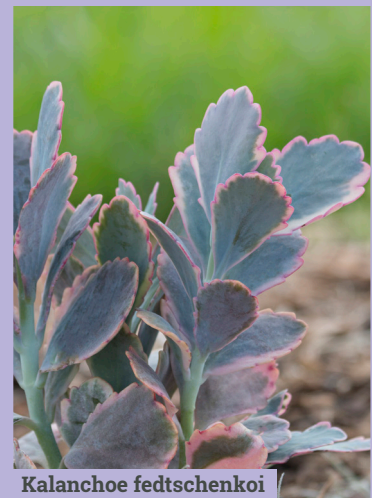
Kalanchoes are one of the most versatile succulent families as they offer you a ton of different colors, textures, and sizes. Larger types (such as *K. beharensis*) can grow several feet tall, in fact. One of the most common, *K. blossfeldiana*, is used as an annual or flowering potted plant, as it's beloved for its sprays of colorful blooms.

If you're planting a garden or containers with cacti and succulents, you'll want to include at least one or two kalanchoes in the mix. Big-leaf varieties, such as flapjacks (*K. thyrisiflora*), add amazing texture. Fuzzy varieties, such as panda plant (*K. tomentosa*) bring in a unique tactile experience to your plantings.

Kalanchoes thrive in both garden beds and borders as annuals (in cold-winter climates) and perennials (in frost-free climates), as well as in container plantings indoors or out. No matter where you grow them, give them as much light as possible. They love the sun!



Kalanchoe tomentosa



Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi



Kalanchoe 'Red Scallop'



Haworthia concolor



Haworthia 'Big Band'

Hearty Haworthias

We love haworthias because they're so tough—these little plants are like the tanks of the cacti and succulent world. Most look a bit like aloes, growing a little mound of spiky leaves boldly decorated with white variegation.

Most haworthia varieties are relatively small, making them especially good choices for small container gardens and DIY projects.

Outdoors in gardens, haworthias are ideal in the front of the border with other low-growing varieties such as various echeverias. In fact, you can create a magical look by mixing silvery and purple echeveria varieties with the variegated haworthias. Take care when planting them near other, larger succulents that they won't be overgrown and hidden.

Indoors, haworthias are generally fuss-free if you give them lots of light (a sunny window, for example) and water sparingly, especially in winter.



Haworthia limifolia

Cool Cactus Varieties

Improve your cactus IQ and find the perfect variety!



See one cactus, seen them all, right? Wrong! Cacti offer a delightful diversity in shapes, sizes, and even colors—and that's just talking about the plants themselves—before you get into the blooms!

Regardless of the variety, virtually all cacti thrive in a bright sunny spot with regular watering.

Despite their prickly reputation, cacti are delightful and easy-care indoor plants that thrive in well-lit homes and offices. Because they are low-water plants, they're a cinch to grow.

We grow more than 50 varieties—so you're sure to find the perfect selections to add to your cacti collection.



Mammillaria elongata



Mammillaria zeilmanniana



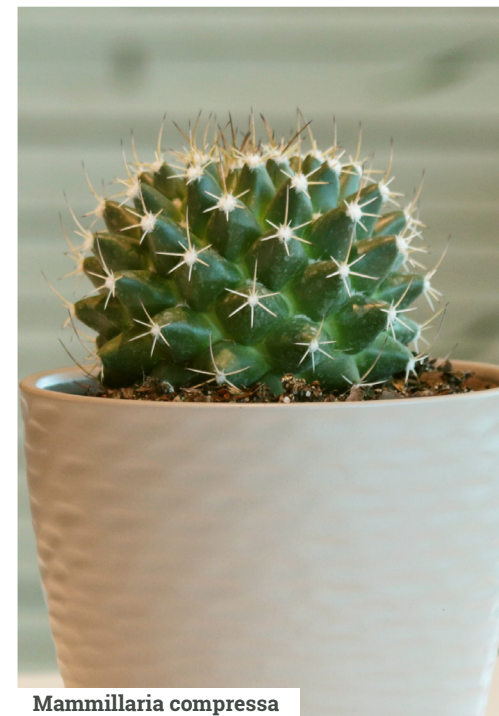
Mammillaria plumosa

Mammillaria elongata, also ladyfinger cactus, is an upright grower that shows off golden spines and adorable white flowers.

Mammillaria zeilmanniana, native to Mexico, is a little species that offers charming pink flowers.

Mammillaria plumosa is a low, mounding variety that practically covers itself in silvery-white feathery spines. It bears fragrant white flowers.

Mammillaria compressa offers a low, dark green mound decorated with white spines in a star-shaped pattern. In good light, it bears reddish-pink flowers.



Mammillaria compressa

Terrific Tall Cacti

When you think of cacti, what probably comes to mind is the tall saguaro, an iconic part of the American Desert Southwest landscape. There are plenty of other cacti that grow upward. These plants are ideal for adding vertical interest and contrast to other cacti and succulents.

These types of cacti are ideal for the back of the border, creating a dramatic backdrop for other plants. You can also use them artfully in other ways. For example, a series of tall cacti planted in a line outdoors can be an effective way to create a barrier or direct traffic in your yard. If you live in a frost-free climate, large specimens can make a one-of-a-kind living fence.

Upright cacti are also ideal choices for container gardening. Because of their narrow profile, they don't take up much horizontal space. However, the taller they get, the more top heavy they can become, so be sure you have an appropriately sized and weighted container.

**See more varieties
at www.costafarms.com**



Euphorbia lactea



Rebutia krainziana

Roundy-Moundy Cacti

Low, mounding cacti, like golden barrel cactus, are fantastic contrasts to their upright cousins. Ideal if you don't have a lot of space or only grow in containers, compact cacti are a lot easier to move around.

Add a bold note to low-water garden beds and borders by using smaller varieties as edging plants. Or, plant them in a line or geometric pattern to create bold interest.

In containers, they're fabulous for low, dish-style containers. A combination of several low, mounding varieties can put on a sculptural show.



Echinocactus grusonii



Parodia magnifica



Euphorbia lactea

