

# Show Off Succulents

Easy-care succulents make a charming addition to vintage flea market finds.

## Wooden Harvest Basket

- *Echeveria pulvinata*
- Ruffled *Echeveria*
- *Graptopoveria* 'Fred Ives'
- *Graptopoveria* sp.
- *Echeveria* 'Afterglow'

## Pair Of Footed Urns

- String of pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*)
- *Aeonium* 'Kim'
- Sticks on fire (*Euphorbia tirucalli*)

## Vintage Baby Buggy

- *Kalanchoe pumila* 'Silver Gray'
- *Graptopoveria* 'Fred Ives'
- *Graptopoveria* sp.
- *Echeveria pulvinata*

Succulents are the lazy gardener's perfect plants. They store water in their juicy tissues to survive extended periods of drought, and require less pampering—watering, feeding, trimming, and repotting—than typical container plants. And these hardy plants are excellent candidates for vintage containers: Succulents thrive in antique pottery, wooden boxes, farming equipment—anything with a little room for soil and a handful of tightly packed sphagnum moss. "I look for containers that, with the addition of a plant, will really come alive," says Bonnie Manion, owner of Mon Petit Chou garden antiques in Encinitas, California. "Some interesting vintage containers might include chicken feeders, tool carriers, old pails, corner hayracks, old horse muzzles, sugar tins, funnels, auto oil cans, children's wagons, strainers—any container with a wonderful vintage patina and look."

## Gallery of Succulents

1. *Sedum morganianum* (Burro's tail) 2. *Aeonium 'Kiwi'* 3. *Graptoveria* sp. 4. *Graptopetalum* hybrid 5. *Echeveria* sp.  
6. *Crassula tetragona* 7. *Echeveria 'Black Prince'* 8. *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata' 9. *Kalanchoe pumila* 10. *Echeveria* sp.



To protect an antique from soil and moisture damage, line it with plastic. Although it's best to provide drainage holes in the bottom of the container, Manion says with succulents, you don't have to. "Putting small pebbles in the bottom of a container provides a small amount of drainage, and a layer of aquarium charcoal can absorb excess moisture in a container without a hole," she says. "Just remember, with succulents use a cactus mix instead of all-purpose potting soil—and be sure never to overwater." Also remember not to leave a container without drainage holes out in rain or where an automatic irrigation system might overwater it.

The garden-antiques dealer and custom-container designer encourages home gardeners to be inventive when planting their own custom containers. "You can get as creative as you like," Manion says, "and your pieces will be one-of-a-kind." After planting your succulents, the fun really begins, she says: "When you're done planting, place your pretty succulent display out in the garden where you need a piece of ornament or on a deck or patio where you can appreciate the beautiful, sculptural forms up close." ■

For more information, see Resources on page 102.



**Miniature Wheelbarrow**

- Burro's tail (*Sedum morganianum*)
- *Kalanchoe tomentosa*
- *Kalanchoe pumila* 'Silver Gray'
- *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata'
- *Echeveria* 'Topsy Turvy'
- *Crassula tetragona*



**Automobile Oil Can**

- Burro's tail (*Sedum morganianum*)
- *Echeveria* 'Black Prince'
- Baby's necklace (*Crassula rupestris* subsp. *marnieriana*)
- *Echeveria* sp.
- *Graptoveria* sp.
- *Crassula perforata*



**Galvanized Chicken Feeder**

- *Aeonium* 'Kim'
- Burro's tail (*Sedum morganianum*)
- *Bulbine frutescens*
- *Graptoveria*
- *Crassula perforata*