

## Watering

Water until the water runs out the bottom of the container following this schedule:

Over 90degrees	Once a week
80-90	Every two weeks
Below 80	Once or twice a month
Winter	Do not water in December and January or if a frost is predicted.

## Winter Protection

Frost cloth or Styrofoam cups:

Cover with frost cloth or cup tips of columnar cacti when temperatures are predicted as freezing or below. These may be left on for the duration of the threat.

## Sun Protection

If a plant has been in a shady area or greenhouse and is newly planted in full sun, protect with shade cloth for at least one month.

## Fertilizer

Use a fertilizer formulated for cacti such as Peter's, one tablespoon per gallon of water, once monthly from March through August.

## Pest Control

It is wise to use a systemic such as Merit twice yearly in March and October to prevent grubs. Forceful sprays of water can control other pests and bug sprays when needed are okay.

Make sure your container has a drainage hole you cover with a coffee filter. Use cactus soil and, if dense, add perlite or pumice. Take time to inspect your containers often to spot a problem early.

## Books that are helpful:

- The Gardeners Guide to Cactus by Scott Calhoun
- The World Encyclopedia of Cacti and Succulents by Miles Anderson
- Sunset's Gardening in the Southwest



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The advertisement features a photograph of a person's hands working on a succulent container planting. The background is a light-colored wall.

Francesca Schelenski & Kathy Stone