

## Echeveria basic care & propagation guide

Echeveria plants are beautiful succulents known for their rosette shapes and vibrant colours. They come in a range of forms; tight compact rosettes, loose leafy rosettes, huge plants that resemble ornamental cabbages and plants that form small shrubby shapes. The huge range of plants makes them highly collectable, with a seemingly endless supply of new and exciting hybrids being created all the time.



### Light

Echeverias thrive in bright light and are perfect greenhouse plants,

Outdoors, they do well in full sun to partial shade, however in spring they do need acclimatising to full sun to prevent them from becoming burned.

If growing indoors place them where they'll get at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight daily, a sunny conservatory or south facing windows. Too little light, and they'll stretch out, losing their compact shape.

### Water

Water sparingly. The plant will tell you when it requires water as the leaves will start to 'wrinkle'. Let the soil dry out completely between waterings. Place your finger an inch into the soil; if it's dry, it's time to water. When you do, soak the soil thoroughly until water runs out the drainage holes, then dump any excess from the saucer. Overwatering is the biggest killer of these stunning arid plants. In short, if the leaves are plump do not water with Echeveria 'less is more'.

### Soil mix

Echeveria plants are native to Central America, Mexico, and parts of South America. In their natural habitat, they thrive in semi-arid to arid environments, often found in rocky, mountainous regions or on slopes with well-draining soil.



A simple mix of 50% good quality compost to 50% potting grit is an ideal mix. This makes a nice airy mixture that will be free draining. If you want a light mix, use pumice or perlite as a replacement for the grit. Just remember to try and keep the mix at least 50% inorganic.

## Propagation

The fun of propagation is one of the main reasons Echeveria plants are so addictive. Whether you are an experienced grower or a novice gardener the sheer joy of growing your own propagations is priceless. Imagine growing your own brand-new plant from just one single leaf!

### Leaf cloning

Leaf cloning or leaf propagation is a vegetative form of propagation and the best way to propagate Echeveria. The process is very simple and exceptionally satisfying.

When pulling leaves, try not to pull the discoloured or wrinkled lower leaves. Although some may grow, their chances of producing healthy plants are reduced as they have depleted the nutrients needed to grow healthy offsets.

Pull the much fuller leaves on the second or third row from the bottom of the plant.



Take hold of the leaf firmly and give it a firm wiggle and then pull away from the plant.

leaves used for propagation should be plump and healthy looking.

The part of the leaf that was connected to the stem of the plant should come away cleanly and have a distinctive 'C' shaped curve where it was connected to the plant. A slight pink colouring is a good sign of a healthy leaf for propagation.

Some plant's leaves are much harder to remove than others and it can take a bit of practice to get the knack of removing leaves. Any leaves that split or tear should be discarded as they won't grow and will rot in the propagation trays.







Place the leaves in trays with a good gritty compost mix and don't forget to label them!

Place the tray in a light, warm sunny place and soon they will start to grow.

It can take anything from a few weeks to a few months for the leaves to start to grow. Patience is key.

As soon as the leaves develop heads or roots it is safe to water. Watering at this young size makes them grow much quicker than if they are relying on only the leaf for sustenance,



When the little leaf propagations have nice sized roots and heads, they can be transferred to individual cell trays or small plant pots.

A word of warning. Growing and collecting succulent plants is a highly addictive hobby. It starts with just one plant and ends up with a garden full of the most beautiful, amazing treasures.

