



# Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties

By Debra Lee Baldwin

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## Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties By Debra Lee Baldwin

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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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"In her new book, *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties*, Baldwin even tells of a Jade plant that has lasted for more than two decades in her garden with various stages of neglect! Besides needing low-water, most succulents need minimal maintenance. We are so done with whiners and prima donnas! (Sorry, Roses.)"

-- Annie Speigelman, Huffington Post

"Anyone who knows Debra Lee Baldwin is aware of her extraordinary prowess as an author, writer, photographer, and artist...her book, *Succulents Simplified*, is a work of art." --- Fran Sorin, Gardening Contributor, CBS Radio News

"As with all of her previous books, I'm a huge fan. However I was particularly excited to read about the crafty succulent projects shown in the book. From quick and easy succulent rosettes for bouquets, to teeny tiny mint-tin gardens, to succulent-topped pumpkins there's a project in this book for even the most craft-challenged." -- Author/designer Rebecca Sweet in her blog, Gossip in the Garden

"Ms. Baldwin's step-by-step projects for crafters as well as numerous container and dish gardens give *Succulents Simplified* a wider appeal than a straight gardening book. It's the perfect starter volume for those new to succulents, while satisfying and delighting veterans with the variation and solid growing tips based on the author's evident joy in succulents and cacti." -- Geri Laufer, New York Journal of Books

"Debra is nothing if not passionate about succulents...In *Succulents Simplified* (Timber Press) she demystifies these popular low-water beauties." -- James Baggett, editor, *Country Gardens Magazine*

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"A beautifully produced and photographed new book. I highly recommend this book to anyone who would like to know more about this fascinating group of plants both in the wild or in your backyard." —*Akron Beacon Journal*

"This fresh and entertaining volume certainly deserves a green thumbs-up." —*Sunset*

"Straightforward advice on cultivation, propagation, and seasonal care." —*Hortus*

"Anyone who knows Debra Lee Baldwin is aware of her extraordinary prowess as an author, writer,

photographer, and artist. . . . Her book, *Succulents Simplified*, is a work of art." —**CBS Radio Network**

"From quick and easy succulent rosettes for bouquets, to teeny tiny mint-tin gardens, to succulent-topped pumpkins there's a project in this book for even the most craft-challenged." —**Gossip in the Garden**

#### From the Author

When people ask me how I became interested in succulents, I tell them I toured an amazing succulent garden on assignment for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Horticulturist Patrick Anderson and his aloe garden opened my eyes to the beauty of succulents and their potential in garden design.

Yet even as I say this, around the edges of my awareness floats a much earlier memory. I was eight or nine years old when I went with my mother to a home in a wealthy community for an occasion I don't remember. When we returned home, my mother described the house to my father: "Big picture windows, but imagine having to clean them. Views of the golf course, but the property is too steep. Surrounded by trees, but they shed leaves and bark. Big deck off the living room, but no garden."

No garden? There had been an astonishing one, in pots on the deck, with plants unlike any I'd seen before. They looked like eels, starfish, and coral. One was a perfect little sphere with a green-and-maroon herringbone pattern. Others were necklaces of blue-gray buttons, rubbery silver-blue roses, and sticks of green chalk with windowed tips.

My mother concluded wistfully, "Maybe someday Debbie will have a house like that."

Why would I want it, I wondered, if it came with dirty windows, messy trees, and near-vertical land? On the other hand, who wouldn't want that deck garden? It became something I longed for, along with a saltwater aquarium, a hot air balloon, and an unlimited supply of chocolate marshmallows.

I no longer want any of those, but succulents continue to seduce me. I'm that little girl again when I see a succulent I haven't seen before, or even a well-grown one I may have seen dozens of times. You might assume I have a vast collection, and although I do own dozens of varieties, I don't consider myself a collector. Fascination need not be possession. I'm equally happy looking at succulents in a nursery, at a show, or in someone else's garden. In particular, I enjoy capturing and recording succulents' myriad shapes and textures with my camera.

For most of my career, I've written about all sorts of plants. Words are still my first love, but nothing describes a plant or a garden as well as a photo. As I practice this art form, I often think of how "photography" means "writing with light." Camera in hand, I circle a succulent, looking for the best light. In slanted early morning or late afternoon sun, red margins burn neon bright, spines incandesce, fuzzy filaments shimmer, and leaves reveal glowing hues of rose, orange, purple, and blue. As you might imagine, it was difficult to winnow the selection of photos for my books. So many have merit, or illustrate an important point, and I was continually thinking, "But I have to show them this one!"

*Succulents Simplified*, my third book about succulents, is a kind of prequel to the previous two. It's a guide for novice enthusiasts, a quick reference for anyone seeking an overview, and a vehicle for presenting design ideas I'm excited about. Throughout, I share my perspective on a subject that has become my passion.

#### From the Inside Flap

Sculptural, geometric succulents come in every color, including yellow, blue, and a crimson so dark it's almost black. There are sedums as dainty as sea foam, fuzzy kalanchoes, rotund euphorbias, and frilly echeverias, to name but a few. And because they come from the earth's most challenging habitats, succulents suit all manner of gardens and lifestyles, thriving in garden designs that are just not possible with other plants.

Whether you're a novice or a veteran, have an acre to fill or a few pots, live in Calexico or Canada, let the popular author of *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens* demystify these low-water beauties. Debra Lee Baldwin writes from experience, with wisdom and humor, so that your own adventures

with succulents will be enjoyable and rewarding.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Linda Brown:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties*. Try to make book *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* as your friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

#### **Anita Cannon:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, leaking every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* as good book not just by the cover but also through the content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

#### **Chad Davis:**

This *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* is new way for you who has fascination to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little digest in reading this *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books build itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in book form make them feel tired even dizzy this book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book style for your better life as well as knowledge.

#### **Shari Villa:**

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's internal or real their interest. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to

generally there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring along with can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing, and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties* can make you feel more interested to read.

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