
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO

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RESOURCES – LOCAL AND OTHER SOURCES FOR PURCHASING CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

There are a number of local sources available to purchase cacti and succulents. Some knowledgeable sellers can assist with information on which plants are cold hardy in the Albuquerque area, and which are tender plants that will not tolerate frost let alone freezing. Big box stores often have nice plants for good prices, but generally no knowledgeable workers to assist customers with plant requirements. For instance, “golden barrels” sold as cold hardy plants will not survive even a warm Albuquerque winter, and Agaves sold with buds are going to die as soon as they bloom. Both have been sold locally in big box garden centers.

Local Vendors Specializing in Cacti and Succulents

Cactus and Succulent Society of New Mexico (CSSNM) Annual Spring Show and Sale. This event is held on a Saturday and Sunday in early April. Both hardy and tender plants are available for sale by local and out-of-state vendors who specialize in growing cacti and succulents. Knowledgeable growers and CSSNM members are on hand to answer questions and give advice about planting and growing. The juried show helps educate customers on the wide variety of plants classified as cacti and succulents, and to see what some of the mature plants look like. The CSSNM website can be consulted for the scheduled dates.

Cactus Data Plants (*since 1975*) sells primarily exotic cacti and succulents. They are located at 4 Vida Del Agua; Edgewood, NM 87015. They normally do not sell from the nursery since sales are either wholesale, or at shows and clubs. Nursery visits are by appointment only. Call 505-281-5884, or email cactusdata@msn.com. Ask for Woody.

High Country Gardens. As of June 2023, Waterwise Gardening has officially joined the High Country Gardens brand. They specialize in cold hardy cacti and native succulents (Yucca, Agave, Dasylirion, Nolina and others) as well as cold hardy South African mesembs. Both companies were founded by David & Ava Salman, and moving forward, the plants previously available at the Waterwise Gardening Santa Fe greenhouse will be available to order online at www.highcountrygardens.com.

Mesa Garden was started by Steven and Linda Brack in the mid 1970s. In 2016, it was purchased by Aaron and Tarah Morerod. It is not open to the public, but sells plants and seeds online. “We believe in offering you the most accurate seeds/plants with collection data from around the world.” mesagarden.com

Other Local Sources

Osuna Nursery at 501 Osuna Road, NE, in Albuquerque, is a family owned business. They have a greenhouse with a section devoted to cacti and succulents. Visit their website at www.osunanursery.com.

Plants of the Southwest located at 6680 4th Street, NW; Albuquerque, NM 87107 (505-344-8830). This nursery specializes in plants that will grow in Albuquerque, and carries plants grown by Rio Grande Cacti. Their Santa Fe store at 3095 Aqua Fria St, Santa Fe, NM 87507, has some plants from Wild Things in Pueblo, CO. Visit their website at www.plantsofthesouthwest.com.

Rehm’s Nursery located at 5801 Lomas Boulevard, NE; Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505-266-5978). This nursery advertises drought tolerant xeriscape plants, and they have a small, but well-chosen selection of cold hardy cacti and succulents in addition to native plants. Visit their website at www.rehmnurserynm.com.

Garden Centers at Home Depot, Walmart, and Lowe's located around town are sometimes a good source for cacti and succulents; however, it is incumbent upon the customer to read the tags carefully for temperature and care information—employees are not usually knowledgeable. If looking for cold hardy plants, it is wise to buy only plants rated for -10 degrees or colder. Checking a plant on the web can give additional information and save the customer from purchasing a plant they might lose within the year because it is inappropriate for our climate or conditions. Care must be taken for plants rated for full sun, since full sun in Albuquerque is far more intense than that which the grower may have encountered, and those plants will need some protection or light shade.

Online Sources

Echo's Cacti and Succulents is a family nursery started from our love for cacti and succulents!
www.echocactisucculentsgarden.com.

Ethical Desert Nursery has been selling cold-hardy native plants in New Mexico and Colorado since 2017. We're dedicated to offering plants and information that support long-term ecological balance and build a love of sustainable gardening. www.ethicaldesert.com.

J&J Cactus and Succulents located in Oklahoma and sells at shows and online. Check out their web-site at www.jjcactus-succulents.net.

Mountain Crest Gardens is a family owned and operated succulent nursery in northern California and a good source for many cold hardy succulents, in particular Sedums. Visit them at www.mountaincrestgardens.com. Their mailing address is Mountain Crest Gardens; P.O. Box 1023; Fort Jones, CA 96032 (1-877-656-4035).

SMG Succulents (formerly Squaw Mountain Gardens) is a small nursery located in the foothills of Mount Hood in Oregon not far from Portland, and is currently owned and operated by Don Mylin, a horticulturist with many years of experience in the industry. Visit them at www.smgsucculents.com. Their mailing address is SMG Succulents; P.O. Box 148; Eagle Creek, OR 97022 (503-637-3585); email sales@smgsucculents.com.

Three Deserts – Rob Romero's seed store specializes in seeds of various cacti of the SW USA.
www.etsy.com/shop/ThreeDeserts.