



## Hillsborough County Extension

5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584

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<http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu>



# Succulents & Cacti 101

Help conserve water in your landscape by planting succulents and cacti. Here are some of the more commonly grown succulents and cacti in Florida gardens.

Common Name	Scientific Name	More Useful Information
Century plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	Direct sun; keep evenly moist; moderately difficult to grow; leaves tipped with sharp spines; often confused with aloe plants.
Aloe	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> (syn. <i>A. vera</i> )	Direct sun; fast growing; easy to propagate; flowers freely and annually; tolerates high humidity; smaller plants may require shade.
Christmas cactus	<i>Schlumbergera bridgesii</i>	Shade; easy to grow; requires regular feeding in summer and fall; flowers in winter if there is less than 12 hours of daylight.
Crown of thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>	Bright light; easy to grow; fast growing; tolerates average humidity; grows in sun or shade, but faster in sun.
Desert rose	<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Bright light to direct sun; easiest of the genus to grow; prefers dry warmth and can rot if damaged.
Tree jatropha	<i>Jatropha cordata</i>	Direct sun; moderately difficult to grow; tolerates average humidity and minimum temp of 50°F; can grow to 8 feet; flowers in summer.
Kalanchoe	<i>Kalanchoe blossfeldiana</i>	Shade-loving hybrid; easy to grow; dense spreading bush; flowers in winter/early spring. <i>K. gastonis-bonnierii</i> and <i>K. luciae</i> grow best in containers.
Portulaca	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	Sun-loving; can form dense ground cover; multi-colored flowers in summer; will die from over-watering.
Prickly pear cactus	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Bright light and average humidity; easy to grow; can get quite large if grown in the ground; vivid flowers followed by edible fruit.
Yucca	<i>Yucca gloriosa</i>	Direct sun; grows large; rarely branches; produces single stalk of creamy white flowers.

This fact sheet produced by Leslie Atkins, Gary Martin & Fern Kinion, Hillsborough County Extension Master Gardeners and Marina D'Abreau, Ed.D., Environmental Horticulture Agent II

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### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:**

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