



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT SUCCULENTS GROW WILD ON TABLE MOUNTAIN; *COTYLEDON PENDENS* HAS ORANGE-RED FLOWERS; *HAWORTHIA FASCIATA*, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ZEBRA PLANT



Built to Last

Steadfast succulents maintain their vibrancy even in the colder months

Hardy succulents are front of mind in winter. They don't need much water and they're relatively easy to grow, but they also come in interesting shapes. Whether you use them as stand-alone features in containers or grow them together in shrubberies, they can be exciting and rewarding. These succulents are particularly lovely.

■ Big features

Alluaudia procera – This strange beast from Madagascar grows up to four metres high.

Euphorbia – The most common species is *Euphorbia ingens*, but try to get hold of *Euphorbia triangularis*, *Euphorbia trigona* or *Euphorbia grandidens* for variation.

■ Shrubby succulents

Aloes – There are so many to choose from, the most lovely of which are: *Aloe striata*, *Aloe chabaudii* and the grass aloe, *Aloe cooperi*. *Kumara plicatilis* is a more interesting, large-ish aloe, which grows slowly but is extraordinary.

Adenium multiflorum or Impala lily – This remains one of the most beautiful

of the southern African succulents. It has been greatly exported and blooms on the verges in downtown Dubai.

Senecio barbertonicus – Extremely useful in larger spaces, this bushy succulent has a wonderful texture.

■ On the ground

Crassula pellucida – Has dainty, lime-green leaves. Prefers a little shade.

Aptenia cordifolia – With its easy character and bold red flowers, this old favourite has proven itself robust during recent droughts.

Malephora crocea – Has a neat, clumpy habit and jolly orange flowers.

Oscularia deltooides – Has the best texture, blue-grey leaves and pinkish stems.

Bulbine latifolia – Gorgeous yellow flowers on long stems and foliage that looks like a rosette. Will take a bit of shade, too.

Crassula muscosa – Wonderful, funky, almost lush-green knobby leaves. Spreads well.

Gasteria carinata – Gasterias are all fascinating, make no mistake, but my

favourites are the clump-forming, dark-leaved varieties.

Delosperma echinatum – An enchanting, clumpy succulent with shiny prickles.

■ Special species

Stapelia gigantea – This carrion flower has great form, handsome leaves and will form large clumps in the garden.

Orbea variegata – Another carrion flower, which has huge spotted flowers and grows wild on Table Mountain.

Rhipsalis baccifera – Has incredible form and long, tube-like leaves. Will hang down like curtains.

Kleinia fulgens – Or Coral Senecio. Has silky grey leaves and showstopping pops of red button-like flowers. Great mixed into grasses.

Euphorbia caput-medusae – So called because it looks like the head of Medusa, of Greek mythology. Superb longevity.

Cotyledon pendens – It is rare in the wild and has the most lovely, floppy, green foliage and starry orange-red flowers.

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