



Cactus & Succulents

Plants for the climate emergency



# Succulents

Succulents are a group of plants that store water in their leaves, stems or roots. The leaves tend to be thick and fleshy, but some genus and species have thicker leaves than others. Succulents tend to thrive in dry climates and don't like a lot of humidity.







# Cactus

A cactus is a kind of a plant adapted to hot, dry climates. Most are succulents, which store water.

Many cacti live in dry places, such as deserts. Most cacti have sharp thorns and thick skin. There are many shapes and sizes of cacti. Some are short and round; others are tall and thin. Many cactus flowers are big and beautiful. Some bloom at night and are pollinated by moths and bats. Some cactus fruits are brightly coloured and good to eat: many animals eat cactus fruits.



# Euphorbia

Often confused with Cactus as they can look very similar.

Euphorbias secrete a sticky, milky-white fluid with latex, but cacti do not.

Treat the same as cactus.





# Echeveria



# Sansevieria cylindrica





# Opuntia vestita





# Opuntia microdasys

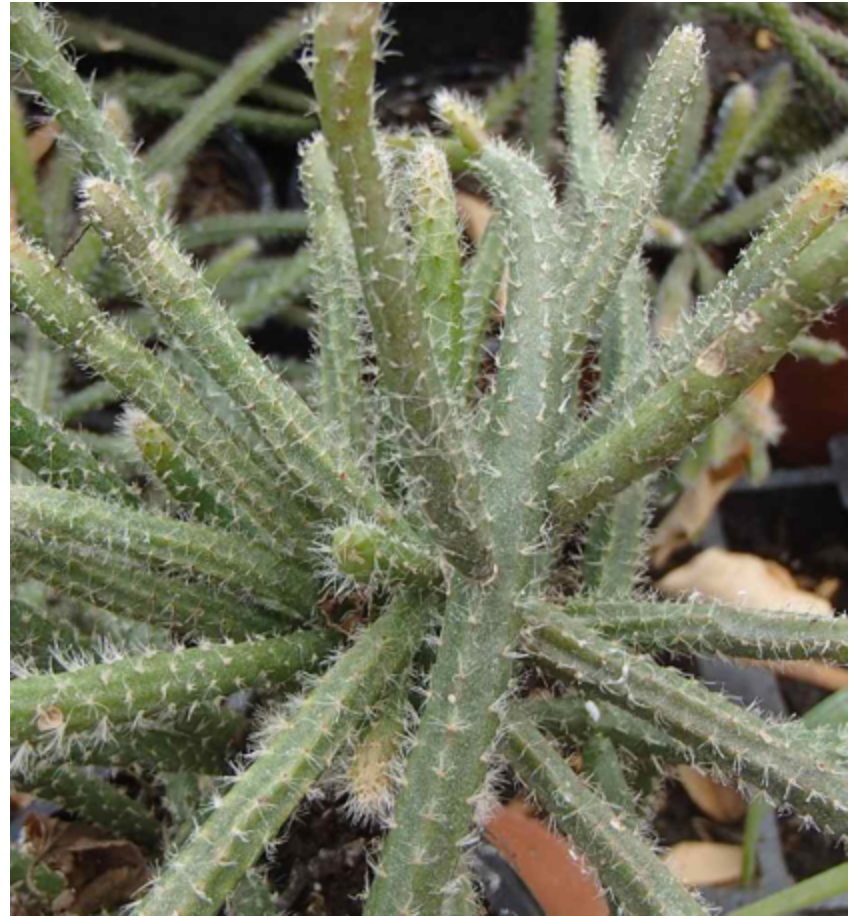




# Curio rowleyanus



# Rhipsalis baccifera





# Rebutia



# Haworthia





# Philocereus pachycladus



# Euphorbia ingens





# Sansiviera trifasciata





# Tools

- Secateurs
- Gloves
- Paint brush
- Tweezers





# Supplies

- Soil
- Pots
- Containers
- And of course plants!





# Where to buy

- Wilko
- Morrisons
- Stratford Market
- Columbia flower market
- Prick – specialist cactus shop
- Online – Specialist selections







Never Buy painted  
plants or glued flowers



# Light

- Plants need light to live.
- They need strong direct natural light.
- South facing window
- Grow lights







# Growth and dormancy

- Summer/Winter
- Northern hemisphere
- Winter/Summer
- Southern hemisphere





# Climate emergency

- Suitable for warmer climate
- Need less water
- Can cope with strong direct sun







Green roof

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# Indoors or Outdoors

- Outdoors in summer
- Surprisingly hardy
- Keep dry!





# Watering Overwatering = death

## Watering methods

- Above
- Below
- Spot watering





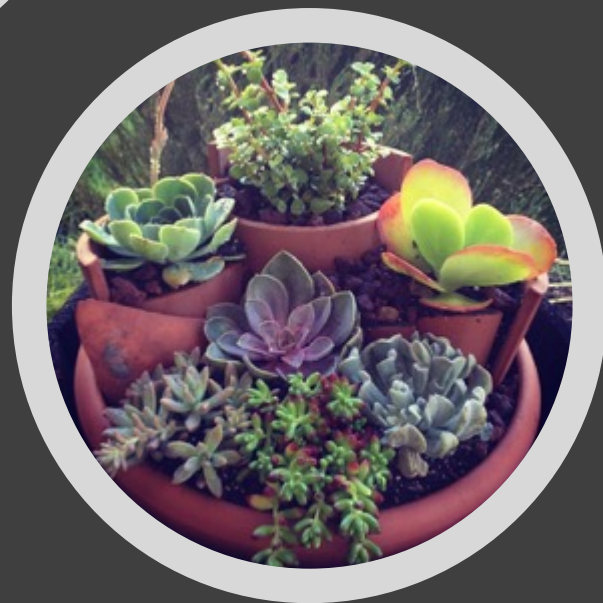


# Compost

- Peat-free compost
- Horticultural grit – 4mm
- Perlite
- Sand







# Pots

- Plastic
- Glazed
- Terracotta
- Cement
- Hypertufa

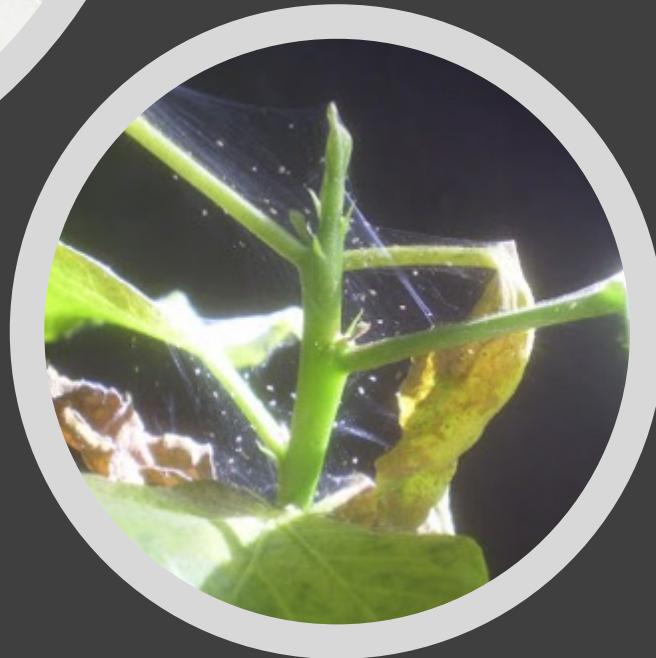


# Maintenance - Prevention is better than cure

- Check plants regularly
- Remove dead leaves
- Rotate plants
- Prune as required

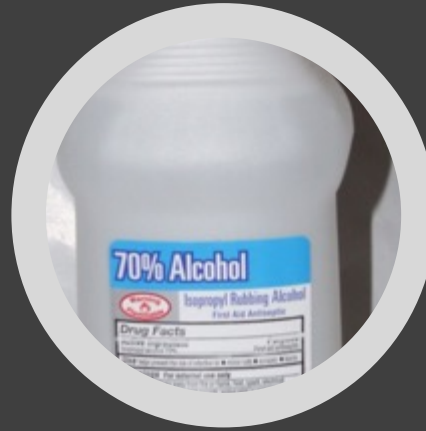






# Pests

- Mealy bugs
- Fungus gnats
- Spider mites

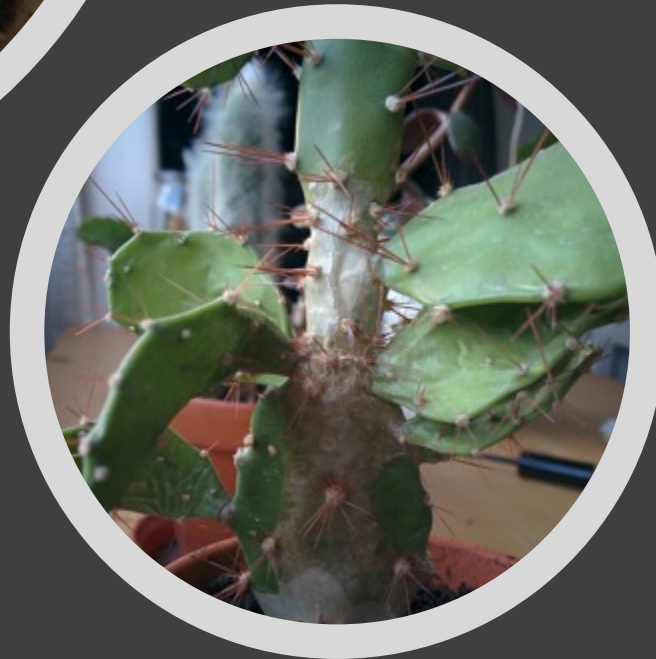


# Pest control

- Rubbing alcohol.
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Neem oil
- Spray with Water and washing-up liquid.







# Diseases

- Mould
- Rot
- Root rot
- Corky Scab



# Repotting

- When
- How







# Succulent Flowers







# Flowering Cactus





# Propagation

## Methods

- Leaf
- Offset
- Stem cutting
- Seed





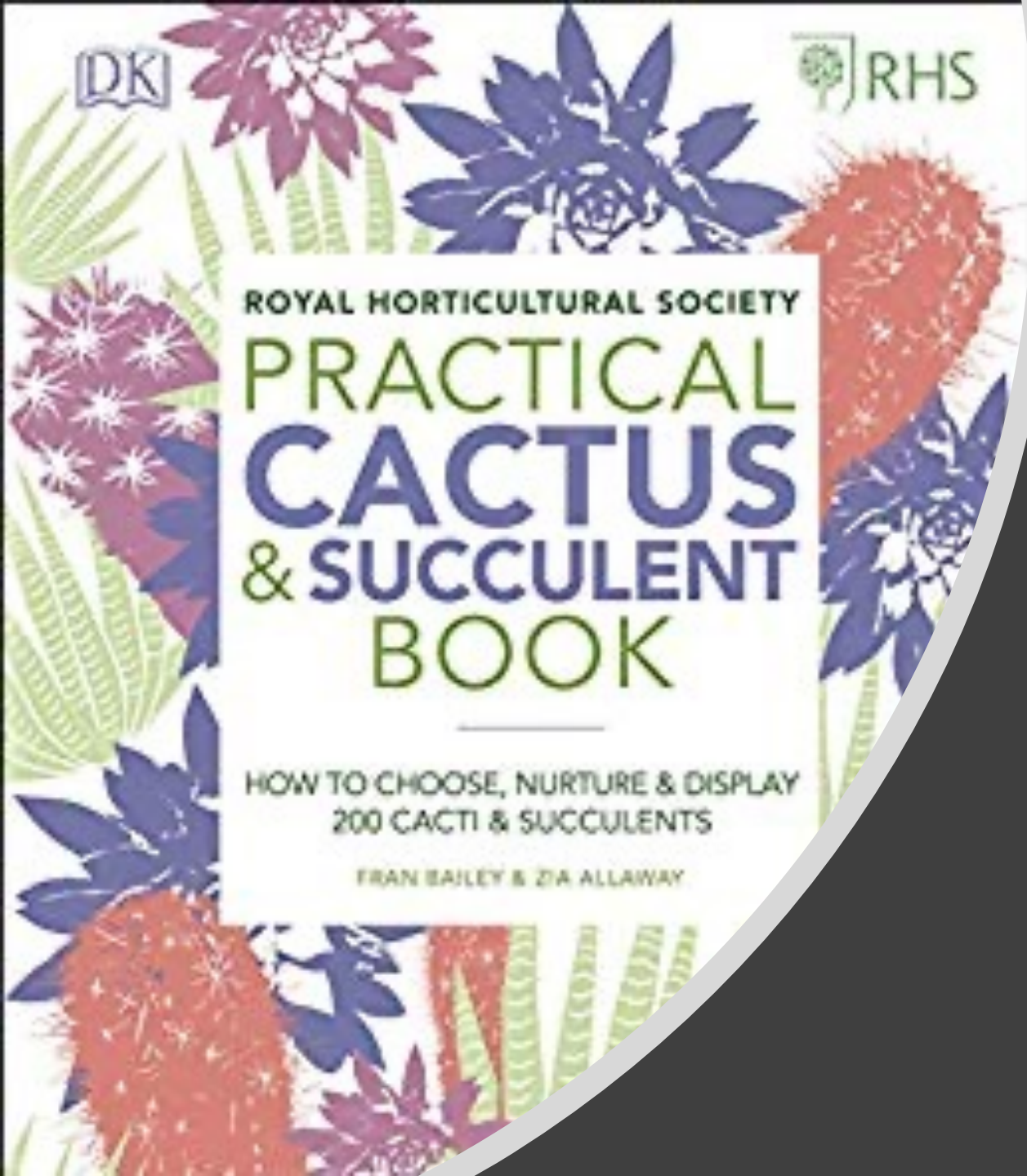


# Outdoor Succulent Garden



# Resources

- Forest Gate Community Garden
  - Facebook groups – “Succulent Leaf Share UK”
  - YouTube – “Garden Answers”
  - British Cactus and Succulent Society – [society.bcss.org.uk](http://society.bcss.org.uk)
  - RHS – Royal Horticultural Society
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- Online shopping
  - Surreal Succulents - [surrealsucculents.co.uk](http://surrealsucculents.co.uk)
  - Prick - [www.prickltdn.com](http://www.prickltdn.com)



Questions?



# Ken Clarke



@kenclarkeis



Ken's House of Plants

<https://www.youtube.com/user/kenclarkeis/>

