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## Winter Dormancy and Succulent Care: Nurturing Resilience through the Chill

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Winter dormancy is a natural phase in the life cycle of many succulent plants. During this period, succulents slow down their growth, conserve energy, and may even partially or completely go dormant. Proper care during winter dormancy is essential to ensure the health and vitality of your succulents. Here are some guidelines for caring for succulents during their winter dormancy:

**Reduce Watering:** Succulents typically need less water during the winter months. The reduced daylight and lower temperatures result in slower growth and reduced water requirements. Water your succulents sparingly, allowing the soil to dry out completely between waterings. Depending on your climate, you may need to water every 2-6 weeks or when the top inch or two of soil is dry.



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**Use Well-Draining Soil:** Well-draining soil is crucial for succulents year-round, but it's especially important during winter dormancy. It helps prevent excess moisture retention, which can lead to rot.

**Protect from Frost:** If you live in an area with freezing temperatures, it's essential to protect your outdoor succulents from frost. Frost can damage or kill many succulent species. Bring potted succulents indoors or place them in a protected area. For outdoor succulents, consider using frost cloth or bringing them inside during particularly cold nights.

**Reduce Fertilization:** Minimize or completely halt fertilization during the winter dormancy period. Succulents do not actively grow and do not require the nutrients provided by fertilizers.

**Provide Adequate Light:** While succulents require less light during the winter, they still need some sunlight to maintain their health. Place them in a bright location, but avoid intense direct sunlight, which can be too harsh in the winter months.

**Monitor for Pests:** Keep an eye out for signs of pests, especially indoors where some pests can be active year-round. Treat any infestations promptly.

**Avoid Repotting:** It's generally not advisable to repot succulents during their dormancy period. Wait until the growing season in spring to repot if needed. **Prune and Remove Dead Leaves:** Remove any dead or withered leaves to maintain the succulent's appearance and health.

**Maintain Adequate Ventilation:** Good air circulation helps prevent fungal issues during the winter months, especially when succulents are kept indoors.

**Observe and Adjust:** Pay attention to the specific needs of your succulents. Some species may require more or less care during winter dormancy, so adjust your care regimen accordingly.

Keep in mind that not all succulents go dormant, and the degree of dormancy varies among species. It's important to understand the natural behavior of your specific succulents to provide them with the care they need. Monitoring your plants and adapting your care practices accordingly will help them thrive and prepare for their active growing season in spring.