**Succulents and Fairy Gardens Handout**

**Succulents 101**

Succulents are water-retaining and are adapted to dry climates and soil conditions.  There a many types of succulents, a popular one is cacti. All cacti are succulents but not all succulents’ cacti.

1. **Temperature**
Succulents can handle the cold as well as the heat.  Just like the desert which can have cold nights, a succulent can live in temperatures down to even 40 degrees F.
2. **Light**

Succulents prefer light such as in the open garden or in a south-facing window. Keep a close eye on the leaves as an indication of if the sun exposure is correct. A succulent without enough light will begin to stretch with an elongated stem. If this happens, provide better light and prune your succulent back to its original shape.

1. **Water**

Succulents will need more water in the summer and during establishment.  Water generously but allow the soil to dry in-between watering.  Drainage is very important.  In winter, the plant will go dormant so water it every other month.

* 1. Overwatered succulents will look discolored and soft—yellow or white with loss of color. Remove it from the pot and look for rotted roots. Rotted roots should be cut off and replant your succulent in a drier area.
	2. Under watered succulents will stop growing and shed leaves or generate brown spots on their leaves.
1. **Planting/Potting Soils**
Your succulents should be planted in a soil that provides for good drainage.
	1. Succulents will benefit from an inorganic agent like Perlite which will help aeration and drainage.
2. **Fertilizer**
Fertilize during summer growing season but stop entirely during the winter.

**Fairy Gardens**

A fairy garden is a miniature garden with tiny structures and real living plants. It can include anywhere from houses and lawn furniture to tiny pebbles and fairy dust. Fairy gardens are enjoyed by children and adults alike, beware of small parts intended for children 4+.

Fairy gardens make perfect gifts and are ideal for gardeners with limited space!

Get ready to create a magical and enchanted miniature world!

**Creating your own fairy garden**

**a. Ingredients**

* + 1. Potting mix
		2. A container with drainage holes
		3. Plants, twigs, and/or flowers
		4. Pea gravel, pebbles, glass marbles
		5. Mini garden decorations such as a fairy house, mini table and chairs, and a fence

**b.Building your fairy garden step by step**

1. Make sure your container is clean and dry

2. Add the drainage material: pebbles, rocks, gravel, or marble chips

3. Add the growing medium which should be slightly moist, usually you will need at least 1-1/2 inches of medium to provide sufficient volume

4. Choose a distinctive plant for a focal point, and add plants of varying heights for visual interest

5. Remove the plants from their original pots and along with any extra soil to expose the roots. Place the plants in the growing medium and tamp down to firm it

6. Mist the plants to remove excess dirt, and water carefully to ensure the plants get enough water but not too much