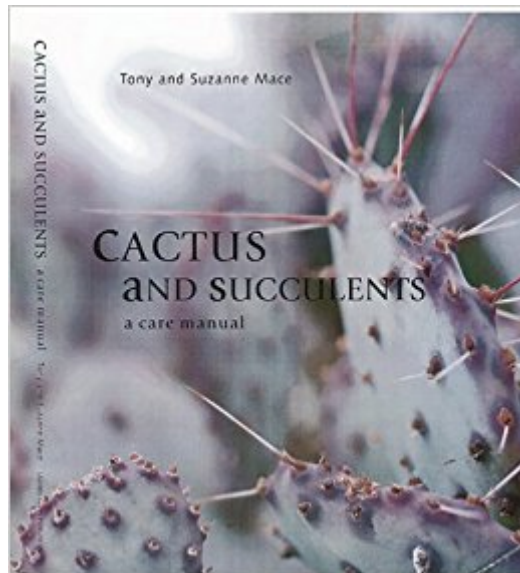




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# **Cactus & Succulents (A Care Manual)**



## Synopsis

Cacti flourish in the most exotic and arid places on the globe, where other plants fear to tread. Yet, many of these plants are easy to care for and have a forgiving nature. All aspects of the cultivation and care of cacti and other succulents are expertly covered. The authors even dispel the prickly myths and urban legends that have grown up around the cactus. Also in the Care Manual series: Roses, Bonsai, Clematis, Fuchsia, Magnolias, and Rhododendrons.

## Book Information

Series: Care Manuals

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## Customer Reviews

This book is divided into two sections:(1) An informative and detailed section on care, propagation, and pests. There is also information on "myths and urban legends". The section on "pests" includes the types of pest and how to control/prevent them.(2) The second section is a plant directory of all the types of cactus and succulent plants. There are beautiful photos and descriptions of each type.The information in this book is fairly detailed and covers most of the things you need to know about selecting, growing and caring for these plants. The authors of this book specialize in cactus and succulents, so they have a passion for the subject. (and aren't just writing a run-of-the-mill book). After reading their credentials, I would really trust any info in this book.Not only is this book informative, but the photographs are spectacular. Lots of beautiful pictures of cactus in natural settings.I definitely recommend this book as a detailed reference book for anyone interested in collecting and growing cactus and succulents.

I feel that this book is geared more towards the beginner and in that respect it does a very good job. Everything a newcomer to the hobby is likely to need to know is there, well written and photographed. Even in a book geared towards helping the less experienced grower, new things can be learned by the "so called experts." There is a good though limited selection of plants and all the necessary information regarding their care and propagation. One minor irritation to me and not just aimed at this particular book, is why authors assume that their readership will automatically be interested in both true cacti and the other succulents and vice versa. They are I suppose trying to get two books into one and sometimes they fail on both counts.

Once you get past the nice pictures, the text unravels. There are several specimens that the authors have misnamed (Joshua Tree being *Yucca whipplei* vs. *Y. brevifolia*) and the descriptions of others is very coarse. There is a small section on Myths, of which the paper space is wasted with utter nonsense. The care and culture information is conflicting and for the beginner, surely to discourage building a collection as plants would be sure to perish. The information in general is a rehash of text from the other ill conceived tomes on the market. In closing, the index misses some of the plants that are presented in photos; *Dudleya* for example. Would not recommend for anyone other than the person that has to have every book on the subject matter.

I was disappointed in this book. I was hoping to find information about growing succulents outside in Arizona. This plant is geared toward those in colder climates who want to grow plants in pots that can be moved in or out depending on the weather. Also, the information provided is very generalized toward succulents as a whole. If you are looking for specific information about a particular species, you won't find it here. Probably a good book for beginners who are looking for general information.

The cover came torn but it just took it off--the book itself looks just like the jacket. I purchased this as decor so I didn't read it, so I can't comment on content.

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