



# Succulents

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Succulents are wonderful examples of nature's adaptability. Succulents can be found thriving the world over, in places with little rainfall. With juicy leaves, stems, or roots, succulents form a diverse group of plants, offering easy-care plant choices for your home. The colour variation of succulents is endless: blue-green, chartreuse, pink, red, yellow, white, burgundy, almost black, variegated, and more. The leaves may be rounded, ruffled, needle like, or spiky.

Thanks to their striking foliage and drought tolerance, they have become a firm favourite in modern Australian homes and gardens.

Succulents are tough plants that in general love full-sun or bright light. But not all, it's best to check the plant label for best growing conditions. Succulents prefer warm temperatures and don't withstand freezing temperatures well. Due to the water stored in their leaves, freezing will often result in the plant dying or getting mushy leaves.

## **WATERING**

One of the common mistakes made with succulents is overwatering. Whether succulents are kept indoors or out, as general rule let the soil dry before watering again. Overwatering is where many go wrong. Too much water encourages rot in the roots and base of the plant.

## **POTTING MIX**

Succulents prefer well-draining soil. Through not a must, like for cacti, it's best to use special cactus and succulent potting mix or mix your own. (mix of coarse sand, crushed sandstone, fine gravel and compost or coir peat)

## **Aeonium**

Aeonium varieties form succulent rosettes either on stems or clumping close to ground-level. They will tolerate both sun and shade positions but will need protection from the hot afternoon sun while establishing and will usually only tolerate light frost. Listed below are some of the more commonly found

Cyclops – Forms large heads which are bronze at the tips and green in the centre, usually less than 1m in height.

Chocolate Rose – Dark burgundy leaves with a touch of green in the centre, usually less than 50cm in height.

Green Rose – Light green foliage, usually less than 80cm in height.

Schwarzkopf/ Black Rose/Black Beauty – Dark burgundy, almost black leaves with a touch of green in the centre at times, up to 1m in height.

Short Black– Dark burgundy to black leaves, compact, usually around 60cm in height.

Suncup – Variegated leaves, small growing, usually less than 30cm in height.

Velour – Burgundy leaves with a touch of green in the centre, usually around 50cm in height.

A. tabuliforme – 'Saucer Plant' or 'Dinner Plate Plant', a green, flat growing species which can reach 45cm in diameter.



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## Agave

Agave will grow in a full sun or partly shaded position. Some softer-leaved species (such as *A. attenuata*) will need protection from the hot afternoon sun until established and most species will need to be protected from frost. Listed below are some of the more commonly found Agave:

*A. attenuata* – Forms rosettes of blue-green, fleshy leaves atop stems which typically grow to around 1.5m tall at full maturity.

*A. geminiflora* – The 'Twin-Flowered Agave' has narrow, dark green leaves with wispy white fibres and usually grows no bigger than 80cm in height and width.

*A. ferdinand-regis* – The 'King Agave' is a small-growing species (usually around 45cm at full maturity) which forms a rosette of rigid, dark green foliage with prominent white streaks.

*A. victoriae-reginae* – The 'Queen Victoria Agave' or 'Century Plant' typically reaches approximately 50cm in height at full maturity and forms a rosette of rigid, dark green foliage with prominent white streaks. This species has a denser foliage structure than the King Agave.

## Aloe

Aloe is a large genus featuring hundreds of species and cultivars. Most aloes form a rosette of fleshy leaves and prominent flower spikes, generally requiring a sunny to partly shaded position. Listed below are some of the more commonly found species:

*A. vera* – Commonly known for medicinal purposes, Aloe vera is used to soothe sunburn, itchiness and inflammation. It grows to less than 1m in height and width in the garden but can also serve happily in a pot on a windowsill. It prefers a sunny position and will need protection from frost. Orange flower spikes can form throughout the year.

*A. x alworthia* 'Black Gem' – A hybrid of Aloe and Haworthia, this small-growing (usually around 10cm tall), densely clumping plant will be greener when grown in the shade and green to almost bronze/black when grown in the sun.

*A. arborescens* – The 'Candelabra Aloe' can reach up to 3m in height when fully grown, with vibrant red-orange flower spikes in winter. The leaves are serrated and often blue-green in colour.

*A. dorotheae* – The 'Sunset Aloe' is a clumping species which reaches approximately 30cm in height. The leaves will turn a brilliant orange when grown in the sun and will be green with white speckles when grown in the shade. Red flower spikes form in spring and summer.

*A. juvenna* – The 'Dainty Aloe' or 'Tiger Tooth Aloe' is a small (typically less than 30cm tall) species which is greener when grown in the shade and red-bronze when grown in the sun. It will need protection from frost. Red-orange flower spikes form in summer to early autumn, though flowering can be rare.



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## Ceropegia

*Ceropegia woodii* (commonly known as 'Chain of Hearts') is a trailing succulent ideal for hanging baskets which has mottled, heart shaped leaves and distinctive flowers. Each vine typically reaches approximately 90cm in length. *Ceropegia* prefers a shaded position and serves well as an indoor plant.

## Cotyledon

*C. macrantha* – Commonly known as the 'Paddle Plant', this species will grow to around 90cm in height and prefers a sunny to partly shaded position, however it will need protection from the hot afternoon sun. Orange to red flowers appear in winter.

*C. orbiculata* – Usually reaches around 1m in height when mature and comes in a green or blue-grey leaved form. Red-orange flowers appear in summer. It prefers the full sun and will tolerate moderate frost. Common cultivars of this species include 'Silver Waves', which has distinctive rippled foliage, and 'Delight', which is a smaller growing form (usually around 40cm).

## Crassula

*Crassula* is a diverse genus ranging in size, habit, appearance and growing conditions. Listed below are some of the more commonly found species:

*C. arborescens* – Commonly known as the 'Silver Dollar' plant or 'Silver Jade', this species displays silver, rounded foliage with red margins and prefers a full sun to partly shaded position. Clusters of white, star-shaped flowers appear in late spring and summer. Around 1m tall and wide at full maturity.

*C. arborescens undulatifolia* – Commonly known as 'Rippled Jade', this lower-growing subspecies of Silver Jade has green to blue-grey foliage with red, rippled edges. It does best in a sunny to partly shaded position and will need protection from frost.

*C. ovata* – Generally known as 'Jade', 'Giant Jade', 'Friendship Tree', 'Lucky Plant', and 'Money Tree', this commonly grown species features thick stems with rounded foliage which is green with red edges, particularly vibrant when grown in the sun. A mass of pink-white flowers will form at the beginning of spring. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position. Can grow to around 1.5m tall and 1m wide.

*C. ovata* 'Bluebird' – Also known as the 'Blue Jade', this plant has rounded blue-grey foliage with red margins and typically grows to around 30cm in height and 45cm wide. It will grow in full sun to full shade and tolerates light frost. White flowers appear in winter.

*C. ovata* 'Gollum', 'Hobbit' – Also known as 'Green Coral' or 'Baby Toes', this cultivar has uniquely shaped leaves which are green with red, concave tips. Thick trunks form with maturity, making it a popular bonsai specimen. It generally grows to around 60cm tall and wide. It also comes in a yellow, green and red variegated form.

*C. ovata* 'Hummel's Sunset' – Shrubby succulent bearing a similar resemblance to the original *C. ovata* form, however it displays brightly coloured foliage of green, yellow and red. It will grow well in a full sun to shaded position and develops pink-white flowers in late autumn and throughout winter. Protection from frost is required.

*C. ovata variegata* – Ivory white and green striped foliage which can develop a red blush along the margins when grown in the sun. Pink-white flowers appear from spring to the end of autumn. It rarely exceeds 1m in height and prefers a full sun to partly shaded position.



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*C. perforata* – Triangular blue-green leaves with red edges available in several varieties. It typically grows to around 20cm tall and wide and develops white flowers in spring and summer. A full sun to partly shaded position is preferred. *C. perforata* variegata is the variegated form.

*C. sarmentosa* variegata – Pointed leaves which are green with broad yellow margins which often develop a pink blush. It does best in a full sun to partly shaded position and forms pink-white flowers in summer to early winter. Approximately 30cm tall and wide.

*C. tetragona* – Dark green, elongated leaves on a multi-stemmed shrub. It usually grows to around 60cm tall and makes a good specimen for bonsai. White flowers develop in spring and early summer. Best grown in a full sun to partly shaded position.

## **Echeveria**

The genus *Echeveria* is host to multiple cultivars presenting fleshy rosettes of different colours, sizes, leaf shapes and growing habits, making it a popular plant for succulent collectors. Listed below are some of the more commonly found species and cultivars:

*E. albicans* – Light blue-grey rosette, usually just over 10cm in diameter. Coral pink and yellow flowers develop in spring. It is tolerant of frost and prefers a full sun to partly shaded position with protection from the hot afternoon sun.

*E. 'Black Prince'* – Clumping dark brown to black rosettes with green in the centre. Red flower spikes form in autumn and winter. It will tolerate full sun to full shade.

*E. elegans* – Commonly known as the 'Mexican Snow Ball', this species displays blue-grey, fleshy rosettes which are densely packed to form a mound. Bright pink and yellow flowers form on stems during winter and spring. It grows best in a full sun to partly shaded position.



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E. 'Emerald Ripple' – Low-growing clumps of emerald green foliage. Orange flowers on stems may form during spring, summer and autumn. A full sun or partly shaded position is required.

E. glauca – Known widely as 'Blue Hen and Chicks', this species offsets profusely to form a mound of flat, blue rosettes. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position and will need protection from frost. Yellow flowers appear on pink stems during summer and autumn.

E. 'Mauna Loa' – Often solitary and develops a stem over time. It forms a large rosette up to 60cm in diameter which is blue-green in the centre and pink-purple around the rippled edges. It does best in a full sun to partly shaded position. It will tolerate light frost. Purple flower spikes form in autumn and winter with pink-orange flowers.

E. 'Perle Von Nurnberg' – Lavender rosettes which are usually around 15–20cm in diameter. Coral flowers appear on stems during spring and summer. It prefers sunny or partly shaded positions and tolerates light frost.

E. subsessilis – Blue-grey foliage with bright pink margins around the leaves, particularly noticeable when grown in a sunny position. Pink-orange flowers form on stems from spring to autumn. It grows best in a full sun to partly shaded position and will need protection from frost.

E. runyonii 'Topsy Turvy' – Grey, keel-shaped foliage with the leaf tips pointing towards the centre of the plant. Red and orange flowers appear on stems in late summer and autumn. It will tolerate a full sun to full shade position with protection from the hot afternoon sun.

## Euphorbia

Euphorbia is a large and diverse genus which exhibits varying life cycles, growth habits, colours, shapes and sizes. Some species fall into the category of succulents. Listed below are some of the more commonly found of those species:

E. milii – Commonly known as 'Crown of Thorns', this species is the parent to many hybrids, such as 'Lipstick' which has large leaves and large flowers, 'Sonoma' which has large leaves and small flowers, and the dwarf E. milii which has small leaves and small flowers. They feature spiny brown stems which become a leafy shrub, with small yellow flowers housed by petal-like bracts, commonly available in hot pink or cream. These can appear throughout the year, particularly prolific in summer. These plants will tolerate full sun to part shade.

E. flanaganii – Sometimes referred to as 'Medusa's Head'. Rows of upright green stems which branch from a thick caudex. It forms small green leaves and yellow cyathia, usually atop the central new growth, during spring. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position, with protection from the hot afternoon sun until acclimatised.

E. tirucalli – Known under a variety of common names such as 'Firesticks', 'Milk Bush' and 'Pencil Tree', this spectacular species features branches of long, thin stems which can show colours of green, yellow, orange, pink and red (particularly when grown in the sun). Red and yellow cyathia form in late spring and summer.



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*E. trigona* – Commonly known as the 'African Milk Tree', this branching species tolerates full sun to part shade and needs protection from frost. The spiny green stems feature white striations and small green leaves. *E. trigona rubra* is another form which displays burgundy colouring on both the leaves and stems.

## Gasteria

*Gasteria* species, commonly known as 'Ox Tongue', form green, elongated leaves in opposite rows, some with mottled white markings. Some species are smooth to touch, whereas others form rough, leathery foliage. A yellow and pink-red inflorescence forms periodically in spring and summer. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position.

## Graptopetalum

*G. pentandrum* subsp. *superbum* forms flat rosettes which are a powdery grey-lavender colour, each rosette reaching approximately 10-15cm in diameter. It will tolerate a full sun or shaded position and is tolerant of frost. Branching spikes of interesting flowers appear in winter and spring, which are star-like in shape with a white centre dotted with red marks and finished with red tips.

## Graptoveria

*Graptoveria* are a group of hybrid crosses between *Graptopetalum* and *Echeveria* which typically develop clusters of fleshy rosettes. Listed below are some of the more commonly found cultivars:

*G. 'Acaulis'* – Blue-green centre with pink at the tips of the leaves which becomes deeper in colour during winter. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position and develops cream flowers which appear on spikes in spring.

*G. 'Debbie'* – Lavender leaves, with each rosette reaching approximately 15cm in diameter. It grows best in a sunny to partly shaded position. Pink flowers form on spikes from late winter to early summer.

*G. 'Tricolour'* – Densely packed rosettes of grey to powdery purple leaves which occasionally blush with pink, eventually forming a clump approximately 20-30cm in height. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position.

## Haworthia

*H. attenuata* – Commonly sold as 'Zebra Plant', this species displays dark green clumping rosettes of upright, pointed leaves which are horizontally striped with bands of white tubercles. Cream coloured flowers appear on spikes at any time of the year. It prefers a full to part shade position. This species is often confused with the similar looking *H. fasciata*, which has wider leaves and less conspicuous tubercles.

*H. cooperi* – Mostly green featuring blushes of maroon and is very translucent towards the leaf tips. It forms densely packed rosettes to create a mound. White flowers appear on spikes during spring and summer. A partly shaded position is preferred, with protection from the hot afternoon sun and frost.



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*H. mirabilis* – Clumps of thick green rosettes which feature vertical translucent striations along the leaves and small, tooth-like growths along the margins. The colour changes to a brown, purple-red colour when grown in the sun. They prefer a lightly shaded position and will form a small white inflorescence.

*H. retusa* – Green leaves with striations and translucent tips. The rosettes are typically 15cm in diameter and form many offsets. Dainty white flowers form in spring. They require full to partial shade.

## Hoya

There are numerous species of Hoya, commonly known as 'Waxplant' or 'Waxflower'. They are typically vine-like creepers, with succulent leaves and clusters of spectacular flowers, which can be grown on a support or in a hanging basket. Listed below are some of the more commonly found species and cultivars:

*H. carnosa compacta* – Usually referred to as 'Indian Rope', this species features tightly packed leaves which curl towards the vine. It prefers a partially shaded position. Clusters of pink and red fragrant flowers bloom from spring to early autumn. A variegated form is also available, *H. carnosa compacta variegata*.

*H. heusckeliana* – Oval-shaped leaves which are lighter green on the underside. Clusters of small, urn-shaped flowers appear throughout the year when growing conditions are right, which are scented and come in pink, yellow or burgundy. *H. heusckeliana variegata* is the variegated form.

*H. lauterbachii* – Commonly known as the 'Giant Wax Plant', this species develops some of the largest of the Hoya flowers, forming a scented cluster of yellow and burgundy blooms. Flowering starts once the plant is mature, usually when the vines are around 2m in length. It requires a partially shaded position.

*H. magnifica* – Scented clusters of white, star-shaped flowers from late winter and throughout summer. The green foliage is large, elongated and fuzzy to the touch. It will grow best in a partly shaded position.

*H. multiflora* 'Shooting Stars' – Clusters of yellow and white elongated flowers which are maroon at the tips. The leaves are green and elongated. It prefers a partly shaded position.

*H. pubicalyx* 'Royal Hawaiian Purple' – Deep green, elongated foliage which is mottled with white markings. The clusters of flowers can come out as pink to purple to almost black. It prefers a full to partly shaded position and will tolerate short periods of frost.

## Kalanchoe

*Kalanchoe* is a large genus of many succulent species, displaying a variety of different growth habits, colours, shapes and sizes. Listed below are some of the more common varieties:

*K. beharensis* – Known as 'Elephant's Ear' or 'Felt Bush', displaying large, elongated, triangle foliage with undulating edges. The leaf colour is blue-grey to olive green with a covering of felt-like brown hairs. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position and will need protection from frost.





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*K. blossfeldiana* – Compact species typically grows less than 30cm x 30cm, preferring a full sun to partly shaded position. Eye-catching bunches of flowers can be singles or doubles and come up predominantly in winter, available in red, purple/mauve, yellow, white, pinks and oranges.

*K. luciae* syn. *K. thyrsiflora* – Known as 'Paddle Plant' or 'Flapjacks' due to the rounded, flat leaves it displays. The clumping foliage is blue-green at the centre, becoming a vibrant bronze-red towards the tips. It grows best in full sun to part shade.

*K. marmorata* – The 'Pen Wiper Plant' features flat, rounded, lightly serrated, blue-grey foliage with deep burgundy spots. It prefers a full sun to partially shaded position with protection from frost. Spikes of white flowers appear in winter and spring.

*K. 'Medusa'* – Large, serrated leaves which are dark green to burgundy in colour. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position.

*K. 'Pixiebells'* – This compact, trailing cultivar looks magnificent in a hanging pot, forming masses of coral red, bell-shaped flowers during spring. The foliage is round and glossy, dark green. It grows well in a full sun to mostly shaded position.

*K. pumila* – Low-growing succulent with rounded, somewhat serrated leaves which are silver-grey and purple at the edges. Lavender pink flower clusters appear on short spikes during winter and spring. It grows best in a sunny or partly shaded position.

*K. 'Queen' varieties* – Beautiful, long lasting clusters of flowers atop flower spikes which are close to the deep green foliage. Flower colours can be red, purple/mauve, yellow, white, pinks and oranges. They prefer a full sun to partly shaded position.

*K. tomentosa* – Often referred to as 'Panda Plant' or 'Pussy's ears', this species is the parent to a handful of cultivars, all featuring a covering of hair-like fuzz and requiring a sunny or partly shaded position. The original species has silver leaves with dark brown markings along the toothed margins, however other cultivars display colourings of brown, rosy pink, amber and pale green.

## **Mesembryanthemum**

Popularly known as 'Pigface', this groundcover succulent typically sprawls for around 80cm and is often used in difficult areas because it is tolerant of drought, salinity, sand, wind and sun. It forms a dense mat of elongated green or grey-green leaves and puts on a magnificent display of flowers which can be red, pink, purple/mauve, yellow or white. The flowers appear predominantly in spring and open wide in the sunshine and close at night. They prefer a full sun position but will also tolerate partial shade.

## **Othonna**

*Othonna capensis* is a fast-growing, trailing succulent known as 'Ruby Necklace'. Elongated bean-like foliage is green to purple and forms along long, bright purple strands. Small, daisy-like flowers appear when grown in the sun. It can be grown in full sun to full shade and is tolerant of frost.



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## **Pachyphytum**

Pachyphytum are sometimes referred to as 'Moonstones', particularly *P. compactum*, which is a small growing species which forms thick, pointed foliage with powdery white markings over a purple to blue-green coloured leaf. They prefer a partly shaded position.

## **Portulacaria**

*Portulacaria afra* is a common succulent known as 'Jade' or 'Money Tree'. It has small, round, jade green leaves which contrast against the brown stems. When left to grow, this species becomes a large, dense shrub. It is also popular as a bonsai specimen or pot plant. A full sun to partly shaded position is preferred. *Portulacaria afra variegata* is the variegated form.

## **Sansevieria**

*S. hahnii* – Low-growing rosettes of upright, pointed green leaves with lighter green horizontal markings. It prefers a full shade position. It is also available in a selection of variegated forms, featuring yellow margins.

*S. trifasciata* – Popularly known as 'Mother-In-Law's Tongue' or 'Snake Plant', this plant displays long, pointed, upright foliage, forming around a basal rosette. The leaves are dark green with lighter green horizontal markings. The variegated version, *S. trifasciata laurentii*, is more common, which has thick, yellow margins. An inconspicuous yellow-green flower occasionally develops between the leaves. These plants prefer a full to partly shaded position.

## **Sedum**

*Sedum* features hundreds of species, all displaying differences in colouring, shape, size, growth habit and growing requirements. Listed below are some of the more commonly found varieties:

*S. 'Blue Feather'* – Groundcover cultivar with tightly packed, slim leaves which are blue and feather-like in overall appearance. It typically grows approximately 5cm in height and 40cm wide. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position.

*S. 'Bronze Delight'* – This low growing cultivar typically grows to around 10cm in height and 20cm wide and features pink-bronze rosettes on stems. Pale yellow, star-shaped flowers appear periodically. It grows in full sun or part shade.

*S. 'Ogon'* – This groundcover cultivar displays vibrant, yellow-green foliage which trails over the edges of pots and looks effective in rockeries. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position with protection from the hot afternoon sun to avoid bleaching. Yellow flowers develop in the middle of summer.



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*S. mexicanum* – Usually sold as 'Gold Mound', this groundcover succulent features golden to lime green feather-like foliage and prefers a sunny to partly shaded position. It can spread up to 60cm and looks effective in a hanging pot and in rockeries. Masses of yellow flowers appear in spring.

*S. morganianum* – Known as 'Burro's Tail', 'Donkey Tail' or the compact variety 'Burrito', this species produces trailing stems of fleshy, light blue-green leaves and looks effective in a hanging pot. It prefers a sunny to partly shaded position with protection from the hot afternoon sun.

*S. pachyphyllum* – Known as 'Blue Jelly Beans', this species displays rounded, glossy, jelly-bean like leaves which are blue-green in colour, often developing a pink hue at the tips. They prefer a full sun to partly shaded position and develop yellow flowers during the summer.

*S. rubrotinctum* – Known as 'Red Jelly Beans' or 'Green Jelly Beans', this species displays rounded, glossy, jelly-bean like leaves which are green with red tips, particularly vibrant when grown in the sun. They prefer a full sun to partly shaded position and develop yellow flowers during spring.

*S. rubrotinctum aurora* – Known as 'Pink Jelly Beans', this species displays rounded, glossy, jelly-bean like leaves which are pale green with pink tips, particularly vibrant during winter. They prefer a sunny to partly shaded position and develop yellow flowers during spring.

*S. spathulifolium* – Available in cultivars 'Silver Blob' and 'Cape Blanco', this groundcover succulent displays silver grey foliage, which forms a dense mat of small rosettes on short stems. Yellow flowers appear in summer. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position.

*S. spathulifolium purpureum* 'Purple Blob' – This groundcover cultivar displays silvery blue-green to purple foliage, which forms a dense mat of small rosettes on short stems. It prefers a full sun to partly shaded position, with protection from the hot afternoon sun.

*S. 'Autumn Joy'* – Features blue-green foliage and is known for the spectacular floral display it puts on starting from summer, when broccoli-like flower buds form on stems above the plant. These buds open into brilliant pink flowers, which become a deep red later into autumn. It prefers a full sun or partly shaded position.

## **Sempervivum**

With thousands of hybrid cultivars, *Sempervivum* have become a popular plant for succulent collectors, with a huge variety of colours and growth habits. They are all comprised of offsetting rosettes and often form clumps. The common name for these plants is 'House Leeks'.



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## Senecio

*S. mandraliscae* (syn. *S. talinoides* subsp. *mandraliscae* or *Kleinia mandraliscae*) – 'Blue Chalksticks' or 'Blue Finger' is known for upright, finger-like, powdery blue foliage. It will get to an approximate height and width of 30cm and prefers a full sun position but will also tolerate part shade. *S. serpens* is similar in appearance but grows shorter as a groundcover or border plant.

*S. rowleyanus* – 'String of Pearls' requires full to part shade and is popular as an indoor plant. Mid-green, spherical foliage trails down on long strands which looks great in a hanging pot.

*S. 'String of Beans'* and *'String of Bananas'* – Trailing succulent with mid-green (sometimes powdery blue-green), elongated, bean-like foliage forming along long strands. Suitable as a houseplant and effective in a hanging pot, it will tolerate full shade or a sunny position.