

How To Make An Outdoor Succulent Living Wreath

- Clear off a table or counter that you don't mind getting wet and a little messy too! (You can also use a plastic covering like an old table cloth, drop cloth, etc. to protect your surface.) Place your sphagnum moss into a bucket or a sink and add enough water to cover it. Let it soak for an hour before starting to make your wreath.
- Once it is done soaking, take your moss out and gently squeeze out a good portion of the excess water. Place 'squeezed' moss into another large container, making it easier to move to your flat workspace.
- Place the wreath frame on your flat workspace and take the two metal pieces apart. Once they are separated, place the curved, main portion of the wreath form open side up. Then start placing your moss into the frame to make a foundation for the soil. Place the moss across the bottom and up the sides, checking for thickness often (make sure you cannot see light coming in from behind the moss).
- Start filling the center of the form with soil (on top of the moss you just placed) and gently press it down, being careful not to break through the moss. Once it is filled with dirt, place another layer of moss on top of the soil. Then attach the bottom, flat piece of the form, over the moss-soil-moss combination.
- Turn your moss-and-soil-filled form over and you are ready to begin planting. Make holes in your moss, with the provided dibble, and place your sedums into these newly created holes. Put sedums on all surfaces - center, top and sides - securing them with the provided pins, if needed. Evenly distribute the larger-sized plants throughout the wreath first and then add in your smaller plants to create an overall-balanced-looking living wreath. Your wreath will fill in and look full as the plants grow - it should look a little 'spotty' after being newly planted.
- After you are satisfied with your wreath, find a place (avoid direct sunlight) to lay it on its back until the sedums start to grow roots (roughly 3 weeks). You want to avoid hanging it until after the roots are fully established.
- Gently water the plants that have established roots (these are likely the ones you took out of containers when planting) every 1.5 to 2 weeks. It is not necessary to fertilize your sedums at this point since they are not rooted-in yet. You can eventually add fertilizer to your water, in about 8 weeks.

Find more information on how to care for your outdoor succulent living wreath on the following page...

How To Care For Your Outdoor Succulent Living Wreath

Exposure: Bright light is best, with little to no direct sun. A bit of direct morning sun is okay, but avoid hanging your wreath in any spots with strong, hot sun. You basically want to protect those fleshy succulents from potentially burning, while also preventing their roots from drying out too fast.

Watering: Depending on the temperatures and the exposure, a good watering once every 1 to 3 weeks is all your wreath needs. You can check this by gently inserting your finger roughly 2” into the wreath to check the moisture content. To water properly, take the wreath down, lay it flat and water it thoroughly. You can do this with a narrow-spouted watering can, by misting it with a spray bottle or watering it with a gentle flow from a garden hose. Let the water all drain out before hanging it back up.

Feeding: Your wreath will need and enjoy some yearly nourishment since it does not have a lot of soil to grow in. Feed it once in the spring and if you think it needs another feeding, do it again in late summer. It is best to feed it with an organic, balanced liquid fertilizer. Be intentional when doing this to make sure that the roots get fertilized since they are the part of the plant that needs it the most.

Pests: The healthier plants are, the better they will resist a visit from any unwanted pests. Succulents occasionally get mealy bugs down in their nodes and orange aphids can also appear on tender new growth. Both of these can easily be taken care of by gently spraying them off the infected plants with a garden hose. Be careful if/when you do this as it can potentially remove soil and moss inside your living wreath. There are also a variety of products available here in the nursery that will help get rid of these pests.

First Aid: The moss may eventually wear away or come apart, so a bit of repair is sometimes needed. Simply use new pieces of moss to cover any exposed soil and secure it with the provided pins - think of it as a moss band-aid.

Other Tips: You may need to clip-out an occasional dead leaf every now and then. Also, if any of the succulents start to crowd or outgrow each other over time, just prune the unwanted plants out, let the stems heal over and then replant in your wreath. Think of it as a wreath that keeps on giving and giving over time! The overall maintenance is relatively simple on these wreaths, but if you run into any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to us here in the nursery!