PLANTOGROVE FIELD WORKSHEET | HOUSEPLANTS & SUCCULENT CARE

Succulent Watering & Drainage Checklist

Do not pour beer into succulent pots. Diagnose leaf texture, subsurface moisture, pot drainage, and light first.

1. QUICK LEAF-SYMPTOM TRIAGE CHECKLIST (NON-DEFINITIVE CLUES)

- [ ] Single dry, papery lower leaf on an otherwise firm rosette: Often normal basal leaf aging/reabsorption; gently remove once dry.
- [ ] Several yellow, translucent, soft, or mushy leaves + damp mix: Classic sign of excess moisture or poor drainage; pause watering immediately.
- [ ] Wrinkled, puckered, or deflated leaves + bone-dry mix throughout pot: Plant is likely underwatered; soak thoroughly and let drain.
- [ ] Stretched stem with wide spaces between leaves (etiolation) or flattened leaves: Insufficient light; move gradually to brighter light.
- [ ] Bleached, tan, or scarred patches on sun-facing leaves: Sunburn from abrupt intense sun; provide filtered light and acclimate slowly.

2. SOIL-MOISTURE CHECK STEPS & DRAINAGE / POT INSPECTION

- [ ] Subsurface Probe Check: Insert a clean, plain wooden chopstick or skewer 2-3 inches deep for a few minutes. If damp particles cling or wood darkens, wait.
- [ ] Pot Weight & Drain-Hole Check: Lift the container to learn its dry vs. watered weight, and touch the medium at the bottom drainage hole.
- [ ] Unobstructed Drainage Hole: Confirm the pot has at least one open drain hole; avoid sealed glass terrariums or un-drilled cachepots for beginners.
- [ ] Saucer & Outer Cachepot Check: Empty saucers and decorative outer pots 10-15 minutes after watering so roots never sit in standing water.
- [ ] Porous Succulent Medium: Use a fast-draining cactus/succulent medium with coarse mineral grit, perlite, or pumice so air returns to root pores.

3. SEASONAL WATERING REMINDER (NO FIXED CALENDAR INTERVAL)

- [ ] Thorough Soak, Complete Drain: When the mix has dried down, water evenly until excess exits the drain hole; skip daily misting or tiny splashes.
- [ ] Spring & Summer Active Growth: Longer daylight and warmth increase water uptake; check moisture more often, especially in small or unglazed clay pots.
- [ ] Fall & Winter Low-Growth Period: Cooler indoor temperatures and short days slow evaporation; lengthen dry intervals and keep foliage dry.

4. EMERGENCY TRIAGE: IF BEER OR EXCESS WATER WAS POURED INTO THE POT

- [ ] Step 1 - Stop Household Liquids: Do not add more beer, sugary drinks, vinegar, or unverified DIY mixes (slug beer traps belong only in garden beds).
- [ ] Step 2 - Assess Amount & Drainage: If a small splash entered porous mix in a pot with a drain hole, flush once with plain water and drain completely.
- [ ] Step 3 - Unpot if Saturated or Soft: If heavy beer/water sits in dense soil, a pot lacks a drain hole, or leaves turn soft/translucent, unpot gently.
- [ ] Step 4 - Inspect Roots & Repot When Needed: Brush off wet sour mix, trim dark mushy rotted roots with clean shears, and repot in fresh porous mix.

5. SUCCULENT POT OBSERVATION & WATERING LOG (WRITE-IN NOTES)

Plant & Pot:	Plant type (e.g., Echeveria): _____ Pot material & drain hole (Y/N): _____
Check & Watering:	Date checked: _____ Chopstick test (Dry / Cool / Wet): _____ Date watered: _____
Light & Notes:	Window / light exposure: _____ Leaf & root notes: _____

6. VERIFIED HORTICULTURAL & EXTENSION SOURCES (NO AFFILIATE LINKS)

Iowa State University Extension - Common Problems and Issues of Succulents: https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/common-problems-and-issues-succulents
University of Minnesota Extension - Cacti and Succulents: https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/cacti-and-succulents
University of Florida IFAS - Succulents: https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/succulents/
University of California ANR (Marin Master Gardeners) - Succulent Care: https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-marin-master-gardeners/succulent-care
Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) - Echeveria: https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/echeveria
University of Vermont Extension - Combating Slugs in the Home Garden (slug-trap context): https://www.uvm.edu/extension/news/combating-slugs-home-garden