



# Succulent Scoop

## Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

September 2024

Volume 9 Number 9

### Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com) Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Web: [ConejoCSS.com](http://ConejoCSS.com)

**Next Meeting Wednesday September 4th**  
**Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00**

**California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center**  
**130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360**

### ICONIC PLANTS OF THE RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

By Brian Kemble

Ruth began planting her dry garden in 1972, although she began collecting succulents long before that. For many years, the Bancroft family had run a farm growing walnuts and pears, and it was the removal of the last 3½ acres of walnuts that provided an opening for Ruth to begin planting her extensive collection of succulents and other plants with low water needs. There were certain plant groups that she gravitated toward, including the Agavaceae (agaves, yuccas and their relatives), aloes, echeverias and terrestrial bromeliads (such as dyckias and hechtias), so these are of course well represented in the garden's plantings. Over the course of time, a long succession of plants caught her eye and were incorporated into the mix, including many kinds of cacti, members of the protea family, and various bulbs, resulting in the rich botanical tapestry that we see today. This presentation features a whirlwind tour of the garden's most prominent denizens.

Brian Kemble is the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and he has worked there since 1980. He is also the VP of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society and the VP of the Institute for Aloe Studies (based in Oakland). He has been on many trips near and far to see succulent plants in habitat, including to Mexico, South Africa, Madagascar, Namibia and Ethiopia. He has written many articles on succulents (including some in the *Cactus & Succulent Journal*), and his photos appear in numerous books on succulents.



# President's Message September 2024

Hello Members,

It's hard to believe it is almost fall. With fall comes October, and October brings two events to our club:

1. Elections
2. Our Fall Sale

The open positions for elections this year are:

1. President
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President in charge of 'Plant of the Month'
3. Secretary
4. Director #1 Membership



I'm giving everyone a heads-up on this, so you can give some thought, during the next month, to who you would like to nominate (or nominate yourself) to run for the positions.

Also, in October we will be doing a club vote for CSSA Board Positions. If you were at the last meeting, you heard me announce that Kyle Williams is running for a position on the CSSA board this year. So, when we have our CCSS club vote, everyone vote for Kyle.

There are only twelve board positions in the entire country and if Kyle wins, we'll have three members on the board.

Now let's talk sales. Our April sale was our most successful one ever—even with the rain and five vendors cancelling. I believe we're developing a regular clientele for our sales and our buyers are becoming more sophisticated collectors who don't mind getting a little wet to find unique plants to add to their collections.

Put on your thinking caps and at the September meeting we can have a short discussion of ideas to promote the sale to make it our best sale ever.

I have added pictures of my winning plants from the Inter-City Show. I hope you enjoy them.

Hope to see you in September,

Linda Holub  
President, CCSS







Congratulations Linda!  
Great entries at 2024 Inter-City Show

### [California Lutheran Parking map](#)

Once you see the map you can click on parking in the menu to the left.

You can copy and paste this link into your browser.

You can also access maps by searching California Lutheran University maps.

[https://www.callutheran.edu/map/?id=135#!ct/  
19466,19467,19468,19469,19470,19471,19472,80360?s/?mc/  
34.223628196275,-118.87928009033?z/17?lvl/0?share](https://www.callutheran.edu/map/?id=135#!ct/19466,19467,19468,19469,19470,19471,19472,80360?s/?mc/34.223628196275,-118.87928009033?z/17?lvl/0?share)

There is an overflow parking lot north of the Poulson Tennis Center.  
Mountclef Blvd, left into parking lot, right turn just past tennis center.

This is a little more of a walk but available if we find crowded conditions.  
You can use the drop off area in front of our meeting building to bring in your plants.

## Refreshments 2024

**September 2024 - members whose last names begin with " S " please bring refreshments to share with the club.**

In every monthly newsletter there will be a posting on who's turn it is to bring refreshments. We go alphabetically by last name.



Thank you for your participation by bringing in refreshments!

Even if it is not your month to contribute, feel free to bring snacks anytime.

October meeting will be T, U & V names



### WHO TO CONTACT?



Below is listed Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society's current Officers and Board members.

All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

Come up to us at a meeting, call or email.

Club email is [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com).

President Linda Holub - [cactuscougar@icloud.com](mailto:cactuscougar@icloud.com) 805-501-0761

Vice-President Donna Pachorek - [dpachorek@gmail.com](mailto:dpachorek@gmail.com) 805-279-4801

If interested in being an Officer on the board, please add you name to our nomination list for future elections.

### CCSS 2024 Officers

<b>President</b> Linda Holub	<b>Treasurer</b> Chris Gailey	<b>Director II, Education</b> Terry Wilson	<b>Website</b> Tim Alvord
<b>1st VP, Programs</b> Donna Pachorek	<b>Secretary</b> Ryan Ripley	<b>Scoop Editor</b> Ann Hopkinson	<b>Librarian</b> Glen Smith
<b>2nd VP, POM &amp; Education</b> Kyle Williams	<b>Director I, Membership</b> Glen Smith	<b>Hospitality</b> Julie Cox & Liz Gollner	<b>Propagaton</b> Terry Wilson
<b>3rd VP, Special Events</b> Lisa Gailey	<b>Assistant to Director I</b> Pam Smith, Membership	<b>Drawing Coordinator</b> Gerry Caruso	<b>Event Publicity</b> Lisa Gailey

## Plant of the Month 2024

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Echinocactus/Ferocactus	Gasteria
February	Columnar Cacti	Aloe
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon
April	Gymnocalycium	Mesembs
May	Copiapoa	Adenia
June	Eriosyce	Pachypodium
July	Parodia	Senecio
August	<i>Mammillaria</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i>
<b>September</b>	<b>Variegates</b>	<b>Variegates</b>
October	Echinopsis	Sansevieria
November	Crested/Monstrose	Crested/Monstrose

### Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is to introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion of the culture, care and display of these plants. We encourage members to share their plants with the other members of CCSS.

#### POM Submissions

Members may submit up to (3) three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulent). Plants entered in the intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice Division may be newly acquired plants.

#### POM Divisions

**Novice:** 0-25 Total points      **Intermediate:** 26-100 Total Points      **Advanced:** >100 Total points

When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

#### POM Judging Criteria

Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria.

Condition (health, form, damage) – 50%

Maturity and Size – 25%

Staging (artistic composition – container, stonework, etc) – 20%

Nomenclature (proper plant identification) – 5%

Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

#### POM Judging

1st Place – 6 points      2nd Place – 3 points      3rd Place – 2 points

All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We encourage all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

## Plants of the Month: Variegates



Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many *Agave*) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words the plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.

Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll brightly colored grafted technically not variegated, but are of cacti and succulent shows. variegated just because the leaves partially lacking chlorophyll as well.



(achlorophyllus), such as the *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are considered so for the purposes. Keep in mind, a plant is *not* have colored areas. It must be

Variegated plants normally have streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.

white or yellow patches and

*Euphorbia mammillaris*

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom, but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegated appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!



Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates are generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Intercity Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "*Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category except for variegation in Agave, Gasteria, Sanseveria.*"

In general, variegated plants grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll "soaks up" the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

## Examples of Variegated Succulents

**Agave** – Variegates of a number of *Agave* species exist. One of the most fascinating is *Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor' This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe! The fourth color in 'Quadricolor' is seen in the reddish teeth.

**Aeonium** – *Aeonium* 'Sunburst' and A.'Kiwi' are by far the most commonly seen *Aeonium* variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as *A. castello-paivae*, *A. balsamiferum*, and even *A. tabuliforme*. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as *A. 'Atropurpureum'* and *A. 'Zwartkop'* are not considered variegates.

**Cacti** - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, especially the grafted *G. mihanovichii* cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately, they are somewhat tricky to grow and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows. These less commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable.

**Haworthia** – Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in *Haworthia*. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on *Haworthia* (and the closely related *Gasteria*). A Google search for "Japanese *Haworthia*" will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of *H. truncata* can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!

-Kyle Williams

Image Credits: Kyle Williams



*Aeonium sunburst crest*



*Astrophytum asterias*



*Senecio aristata*



**CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)**  
**August, 2024**

**Cactus - Mammillaria**

**Novice:**

1st	<i>Mammillaria microthele</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Mammillaria crucigera</i>	Keith Schmidt
3rd	<i>Mammillaria carmenae</i>	Keith Schmidt

**Intermediate:**

1st	<i>Mammillaria mystax</i>	Cheryl Norris
2nd	<i>Mammillaria elongata</i>	Cheryl Norris
3rd	<i>Mammillaria elongata</i>	Glen & Pam Smith

**Advanced:**

1st	<i>Mammillaria schiedeana</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Mammillaria geminispina</i>	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Mammillaria sempervivi</i>	Ann Hopkinson

**Succulents -Euphorbia**

**Novice:**

1st	<i>Euphorbia abdelkuri</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Euphorbia poissonii</i>	Chris Biehl
3rd	<i>Euphorbia horwoodii</i>	Chris Biehl

**Intermediate:**

1st	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>	Glen & Pam Smith
2nd	<i>Euphorbia bupleurifolia</i> <i>x susannae</i>	Yuen Wong
3rd	<i>Euphorbia polygona</i> 'Snowflake'	Glen & Pam Smith

**Advanced:**

1st	<i>Euphorbia bupleurifolia</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Euphorbia milii x E. decaryi</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Euphorbia decaryi</i>	Ann Hopkinson

For the August POM display there were 18 Novice, 14 Intermediate, and 11 Advance entries for a total of 43 plants. Congratulations to Ann and Chris for sweeping their categories and thank you to all that participated.

POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter your plants. This is your show.

August - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Euphorbia

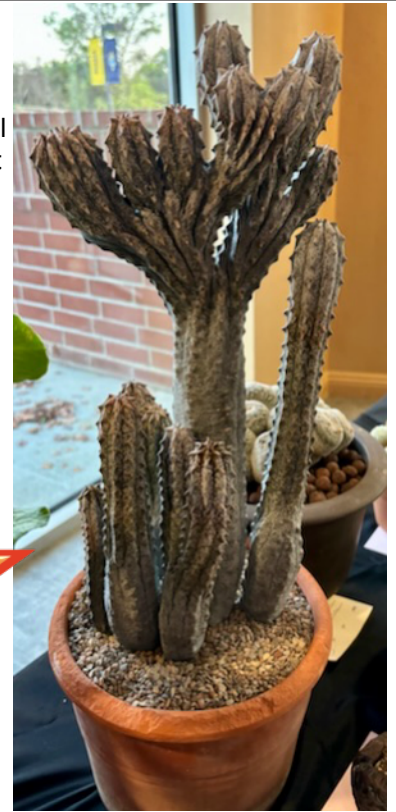


Chris Biehl *Euphorbia horwoodii*  
Novice 2nd, 3rd Place



*Euphorbia poissonii*

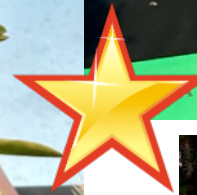
Chris Biehl  
Novice 1st  
Place  
*Euphorbia  
abdelkuri*



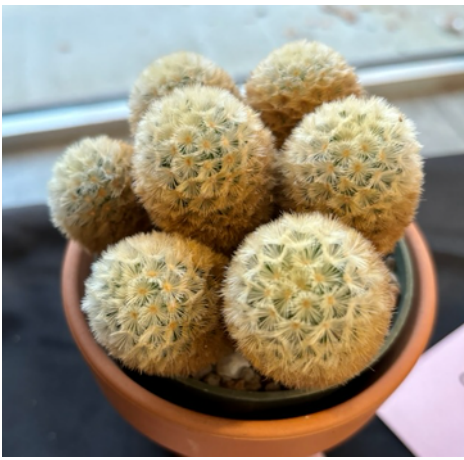
Glen & Pam Smith *Euphorbia polygona 'Snowflake'* Yuen Wong Intermediate 2nd Place  
Intermediate 1st & 3rd Place *Euphorbia milii*



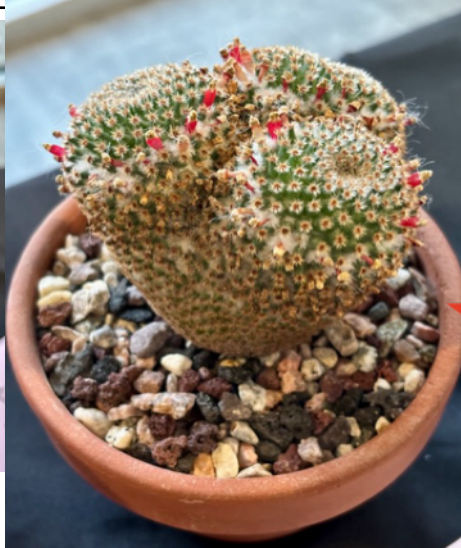
Ann Hopkinson  
Advanced 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place  
*Euphorbia bupleurifolia*  
*Euphorbia milii* x *E. decaryi*  
*Euphorbia decaryi*



August - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Cactus - Mammillaria



Keith Schmidt *Mammillaria crucigera*  
Novice 3rd & 2nd Place



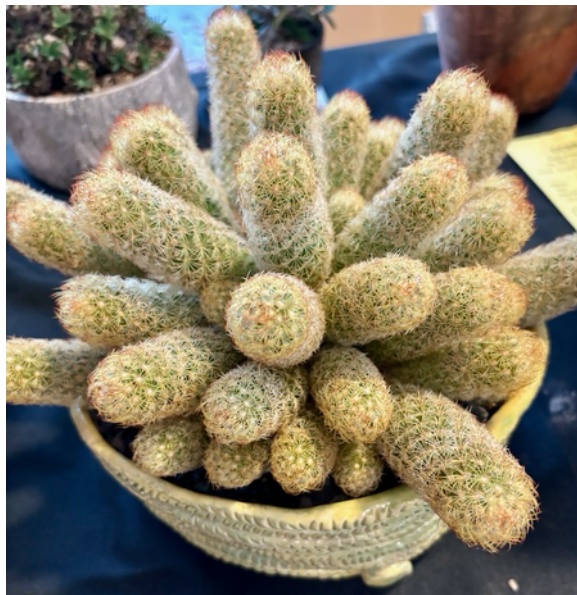
*Mammillaria carmenae*

Chris Biehl  
Novice 1st  
Place

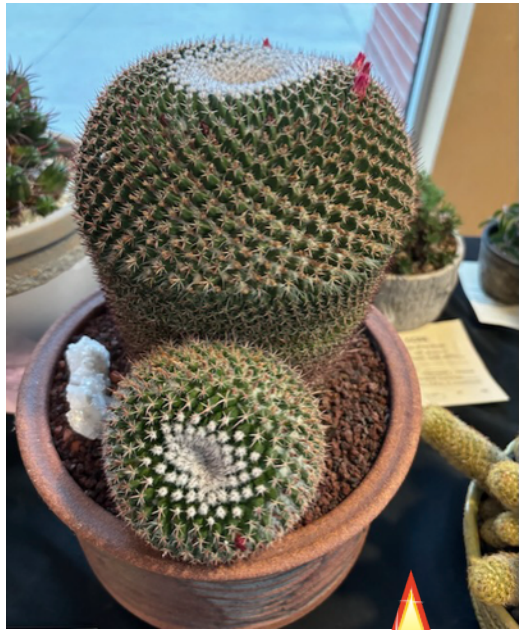
*Mammillaria  
microthele*



Glen & Pam Smith  
Intermediate 3rd Place  
*Mammillaria elongata*



Cheryl Norris  
intermediate 2nd Place  
*Mammillaria elongata*



Cheryl Norris  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Mammillaria mystax*



Ann Hopkinson  
Advanced 3rd Place  
*Mammillaria sempervivi*



Linda Holub Advanced 2nd Place  
*Mammillaria geminispina*



Ann Hopkinson Advanced 1st Place  
*Mammillaria schiedeana*

## Mail Order Cactus and Succulent Vendors for your Enjoyment

The list below provides known, established nurseries who ship seed-grown and cutting-propagated cacti and other succulents throughout the United States. We include this list as a service to CSSA members, but it is not an endorsement of any vendor nor has any vendor paid to be included. Let us know if your cactus and succulent related business would like to be included. Please [send us](#) a link to your website and a good contact email address.

Please enjoy.

Botanic Wonders

<https://www.botanicwonders.com>

Cold Hardy Cactus

<https://coldhardycactus.com>

Ethical Desert

<https://ethicaldesert.com>

Plant Delights

<https://www.plantdelights.com/>

Hidden Agave

<https://hiddenagave.com>

J & J Cactus and Succulents

<https://www.jjcactus-succulents.net>

Kyle's Plants

<https://kylesplants.com>

Miles' To Go

<https://www.miles2go.com>


Paradise Found Rare Plant Nursery

<https://www.paradisefoundnursery.com>

Mountain Crest Gardens

<https://mountaincrestgardens.com>

**The Haworthia Society**  
The International Society for the study of Haworthias, Gasterias, Aloes, Bulbines and other related South African plants



3 Journals per year, Biennial Convention, National Show, Seed List, Special Publications

UK £14, Europe £15,  
Rest of the World £17

Membership enquiries:  
Dr Tony Roberts  
email: [tony@robertsctacti.co.uk](mailto:tony@robertsctacti.co.uk)

[www.haworthia.org](http://www.haworthia.org)

**British Cactus & Succulent Society**  
Website: <http://www.bcss.org.uk>



- \*Quarterly full colour Journal, CactusWorld, for all levels of interest, covering conservation, cultivation, propagation, plant hunting and habitats, botanical gardens, plant descriptions, book reviews, seed lists, news and views, and advertisements from suppliers worldwide.
- \*Optional subscription to Bradleya, a high quality annual publication, with articles of a more scientific nature.
- \*Online discussion Forum and publications including books.
- \*See our website for current subscription details, which can be paid online by credit card, or by cheque payable to BCSS.
- \*Further details also available from our Membership Secretary: Mr A Morris, 6 Castlemaine Drive, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1RY, UK. Telephone: +44 (0) 1455 614410. Email: [membership@bcss.org.uk](mailto:membership@bcss.org.uk)

**HGA** **Hobby Greenhouse Association**  
A Completely Volunteer Organization

The Association  
for people who grow plants and flowers in Greenhouses, windows and under lights!

Quarterly Digital Magazine, Help & Advice and Greenhouse & Supply Discounts

Membership is \$10 per year and \$18 for 2 years World Wide

Visit us at  
[WWW.Hobbygreenhouse.org](http://WWW.Hobbygreenhouse.org)  
for more details.

## FREEBIE Table - Etiquette - THANK YOU!

The freebie table is a popular part of our monthly meetings and we want to continue sharing our cuttings. We are lucky to have such a nice room for our meetings. We need to endeavor to keep it clean and tidy.

- \* **If you bring plants for the freebie table and no one takes them, PLEASE take them home.**
- \* **There are no trash cans available for plant material, especially spiny and thorny cuttings.**
- \* **Clean your cuttings before bringing them in for the freebie table. Wash off any dirt or dead leaves.**
- \* **If we all follow this simple etiquette, the freebie table cleanup will not be left to other members.**
- \* **Be courteous to others bring in clean plants and take home all the plants you bring.**



## Hydrogen Peroxide $H_2O_2$ (again)

Marina Welham

I'm talking about this again because I've had such great results using it. It is all I use now to keep bugs at bay and I have few if any bug problems in my collection now. It has other uses too. It was the Amish who started using hydrogen peroxide in agriculture. They spray it on their string beans after they're done yielding and spray several mornings in a row. Those beans re-bloom, and they get another 1-3 pickings. They spray it on their cabbage and on their cauliflower and potatoes and the bugs leave. They spray their alfalfa with it and they find that they get 6 inches more growth and the alfalfa aphids and weevils leave. They mix an ounce of 3%  $H_2O_2$  per quart of water (4 cups) used and spray the solution on the leaves as well. Some of us should do a little experimenting by spraying it on some of our plants and see if they benefit from the treatment as much as Amish agricultural crops seem to do.

It is also very interesting that there are many reports that seeds germinate faster with bigger seedlings when they are first soaked in one ounce of  $H_2O_2$  to a pint (2 cups) of water. Another avenue for us all to explore.

This product is far safer to use than chemical insecticides. I don't have to worry about children and/or pets coming in contact with it or that anyone is breathing in dangerous fumes. Hydrogen peroxide is the only germicidal agent composed only of water and oxygen. Like ozone, it kills disease organisms by oxidation! Hydrogen peroxide is considered the worlds safest all natural effective sanitizer. It kills microorganisms by oxidizing them which can be best described as a controlled burning process. When Hydrogen peroxide reacts with organic material it breaks down into oxygen and water.

To use as an insecticide to one gallon of water add 8 oz. (1 cup) of 3% hydrogen peroxide and spray your plants with it. I also water it into the soil if I suspect root meallies might be working there. If I just want to do two or three plants I add three tablespoons hydrogen peroxide to a spray bottle of warm water. ❖ Ed

**Recommended (and surprising) reading on this subject on this web site:**

**The Amazing Secrets That THEY Don't Want You to Know!**

<http://www.h2o2-4u.com/>

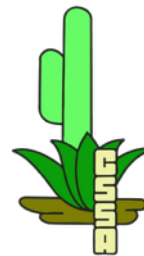
**Note:**

Hydrogen peroxide should always be stored in its original dark container.



Here are some educational materials available on the Cactus and Succulent Society of America website

<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/programs/education/>



## Education

The CSSA has been educating our members and the public on xerophytic plants, horticultural practices, and desert ecosystems for almost 100 years. Various people have driven scores of educational projects at various times. Only a tiny fraction of this work is represented on the web at this point, and new resources are always emerging. As we strive to make information available, come back to this page to see what's new!

## Plant Tips

How-to videos and other resources. Whether you are a beginning grower or a seasoned plant enthusiast, these resources will help you get your footing in the hobby and keep your cacti and succulents thriving.

## Safely Transporting Your Purchases from Shows and Sales

2024-07-25

Attending cactus and succulent shows and sales can be an exciting experience for plant enthusiasts. However, once you've made your purchases, the challenge of safely transporting your new plants home begins. Here are some tips and tricks to ensure your cacti and succulents arrive home in perfect condition.

## Writing plant names

2024-05-30

Writing plant names correctly is crucial in botanical science, horticulture, and gardening. Proper plant naming ensures clear communication and accurate identification of plants. This document is intended to be a brief overview of the principles and conventions used in botanical nomenclature, helping both amateurs and professionals correctly write plant names.

## Book Reviews

Are you in need of deep research on the plants of a specific genus or region or some other topic? Book reviews from the last 100 years of the Cactus and Succulent Journal can get you started.

