

HOUSEPLANT AND SUCCULENT SALE

START YOUR SHOPPING LIST NOW!

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH
TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

Our Fourth Annual Houseplant and Succulent Sale is rapidly approaching! We are thrilled to offer the widest selection of plants we've ever had. This year, we will have over 30 varieties of cacti, 196 varieties of succulents, and 82 varieties of foliage plants. There are thousands upon thousands of plants available (7,633 plants at the time of writing) for you to choose from. We look forward to sending these plants home with you. Here's what is on my personal shopping list in our three major categories: Cacti, Succulents, and Foliage Plants.

CACTI TO PIERCE YOUR HEART

Cacti are tough plants. They are difficult to kill, as long as you don't over-water them. Let the soil dry out completely in-between waterings. I water mine at home once a week. They are slow growing, making them more adaptable to indoor conditions than some other succulents. And they are so darn cute, you almost want to hug them...almost! Here are three of my favorites:

Tephrocactus articulatus var. papryacanthus:

Okay, I know this one is a mouthful, but it's totally worth it! This very unusual cactus, also known as the Paper Spine Cactus, is a slow growing plant that can form a highly-branched clump over time. They have short glochids (that'll getcha!) as well as the prominent curly paper-like spines. We have two stock plants (the "mother" plants that we harvest all of our cuttings from) that are several years old now. They finally started to pump out the babies this year and I'm excited to have 32 of these plants on offer.

Epiphyllum guatemalense var. monstrose:

Epiphyllums don't look like your typical cactus, but they are in the Cactus family. Also known as the Curly Locks Cactus, this plant is a monstrose (continued on next page)



Tephrocactus articulatus var. papryacanthus



Epiphyllum guatemalense var. monstrose



Rebutia muscula

form (meaning monstrous, mutated, etc.) form of Epiphyllum with contorted growth, resulting from a genetic deformity. Curly Locks produces long-stemmed white flowers followed by hot pink fruit, which are similar to dragon fruit. Seed can be collected from the ripe fruit, which are easy to germinate if you want to try your hand at growing cactus from seed!

Rebutia muscula:

This endearing, fuzzy little cactus can still bite, but I've actually handled it bare-handed without any ill effects. Also known as the Orange Snowball Cactus, this clump-forming cactus will start to produce many babies once it reaches a certain size. If you are lucky, it will treat you with a show of bright orange flowers, which really shine against the snow-white spines.

WHAT'S UP SUCCA?:

Succulents require similar care as cacti and resent being over-watered. I water mine at home once a week, but could probably handle twice weekly watering (I'm just lazy). There is amazing diversity in this group of plants, but they all store water in fleshy stems and leaves. Here are three stand-outs:

Faucaria tigrina 'Jaws':

This diminutive succulent packs a punch with bright yellow daisy-like flowers! Also known as Tiger's Jaw, *Faucaria* are easy to care for and are clump-forming over time. The plants at our sale are about 2 years old and were actually grown from seed collected from our own stock plants! Every succulent collector should have one of these and we have over 80 to choose from!

Euphorbia milii 'Dwarf Apache':

New to the sale this year, this Crown of Thorns plant will produce bubblegum-pink flowers throughout the year. Often mistaken as cacti (as many have spines or thorns), *Euphorbia* are a diverse genus of succulents in the Euphorbiaceae family (along with Poinsettia and Croton). As with other succulents, water this plant infrequently, but regularly, as irregular watering can cause the plant to drop its leaves.

Portulacaria afra mediopicta:

Portulacaria afra look like cute miniature trees and are often used for bonsai. (continued on next page)





Neomarica gracilis

We will actually have four varieties of *Portulacaria afra* in the sale this year, but *mediopicta* is my favorite. Also known as the Midstripe Rainbow Bush, this plant has colorful red stems and flashy, multi-colored leaves.

FOLIAGE PLANTS TO LEAF YOU SMILING

Foliage plants vary widely in water and light requirements, and ease of care, making them slightly more challenging, but they are well worth it! I water all my houseplants once a week, but some may need more frequent watering. Once you find that "happy place" in your home for a houseplant, it can reward you with years of enjoyment. Here are a few of our foliage plants I'm planning on taking home:



Philodendron 'Prince of Orange'

Neomarica gracilis:

We have offered this plant, also known as Walking Iris, before in our plant sale, but we've never had many to offer. We will have 39 available this year! This is a real collector's item, although it is surprisingly easy to care for. The unassuming grass-like green foliage brings forth showy white and purple flowers during certain times of year. Flowers form at the tips of the leaves, which then transform into plantlets. The weight of the developing plantlets cause the foliage to droop, allowing the plantlets to root in the ground (if grown outside), or you can remove the plantlets to propagate them yourself.

Philodendron 'Prince of Orange':

This showy hybrid Philodendron has me excited and I'll definitely be taking one home. As new leaves unfurl, they are bright orange, fading to a lime green as they mature. These can get quite large over time. I look forward to seeing just how large they can get when I get mine home!



Zamioculcas zamiifolia

Zamioculcas zamiifolia:

I only have good things to say about the ZZ Plant, as it is commonly referred to. This tough-as-nails plant can handle drought and very low light conditions and still looks pristine and healthy. These plants are challenging to propagate and take a while to reach a large size. The plants in our sale, although fairly small (ZZ plants can get huge over time) are at least one year old, if not two! We are excited to have over 60 available this year. Happy shopping!