

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 16

Issue 8

Wednesday, June 8, 2022



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Succulent summer

Photos Cynthia Brian

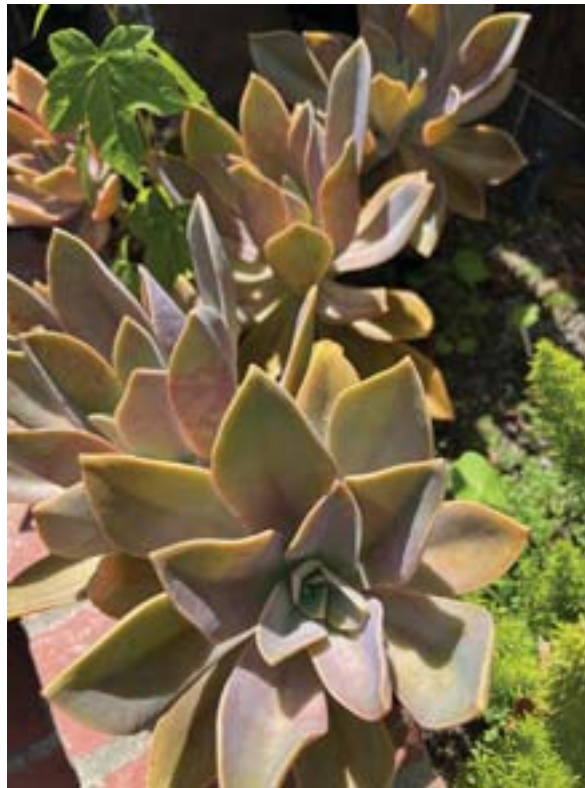


Small succulents in pots result in a minimal maintenance display

By Cynthia Brian

"We Californians are constantly accused of not having seasons, but we do. We have fire, flood, mud, and drought." ~ Phyllis Diller

It's that time of the year again. School is out. The weather is warming. The drought continues. We fear fires. Flood and mud are distant memories. Because of water restrictions, many homeowners are seeking alternatives to thirsty vegetation that demand a constant drink. Enter succulents.



Leather petals, *Graptopetalum rusbyi*, another multi-hued rosette succulent.

Succulents have fleshy, thick leaves that store water and thrive in warm, dry conditions. They are very low maintenance, prefer dry conditions, and enjoy copious amounts of sunshine. Cactus are succulents, although most gardeners prefer succulents that do not have spines, stickers, or prickly pokes. Succulents are beautiful and come in a range of colors including green, silver, orange, yellow, purple, lavender, pink, red, bronze, and mixtures. The more sunlight they receive, the more colorful they become. Many of the fleshy leaves are arranged in rosettes. Succulents are easy to



A kaleidoscope of succulents offers texture and form in a garden.

propagate through cuttings. Sometimes planting a single leaf will result in a new succulent. They have shallow roots and can be packed together for instant impact. Arranging succulents in swaths shows off the varying colors, textures, and forms resulting in a tapestry of interest. Replacing a lawn with an artful array of various succulent species, sizes and shapes is an attractive and waterwise investment. Succulents may be mixed in a garden with other drought-resistant florals such as lavender, lambs' ear, verbena, sage or lantana.

... continued on Page D12