

6655 North Hwy 3  
Greenview, CA  
96037  
(530) 468-2434



Scott Valley Feed & Garden Inc.

Passionate for Pets, Plants & People

1536 Lucas Road  
Yreka, CA  
96097  
(530) 842 - 6801

## Basic Cactus Care

Desert cacti: From spring to autumn place them in the sunniest position. You can place them outdoors but protected from rain. From mid autumn, bright and cool. Water thoroughly from late spring to early autumn. From mid autumn keep dry. Give cacti fertilizer every fourteen days when new growth appears. Epiphytic cacti on the other hand, need more water, high humidity and they do not want sun. Do not mix or grow desert cacti with jungle ones, as the two groups need entirely different conditions.

**Light** - South, west or east exposure. Special attention should be given to young plants, or plants that have spent most of their life in shade as exposing them to the sun may cause sunburns. If they are in shade, turn them around, towards the light, every now and then to maintain even growth. If you notice elongated growth, your plants need to be taken in a position with more light.

**Water** - The worst enemy of cacti is over watering. Place a thin wooden stick or a pencil in the soil. If soil sticks to it when removed, DO NOT WATER! When watering, give them plenty of water. Empty the saucers of any excess water, cacti hate having their roots soggy.

**Soil** - Cacti prefer well drained soil. The best is mix of two parts compost, one part red soil and half part sand.

**Fertilizer** - As a general rule, cacti do not need a lot of fertilizing. However they do appreciate it occasionally.

**Pests and Diseases** - Prevention is the best cure. Examine your plants closely every now and then in order to spot in time any insects or fungi.



[http://www.cactusinfo.net/care\\_tips.htm](http://www.cactusinfo.net/care_tips.htm)

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