**2017 Horticulture Group Meeting Schedule**

**“Container Plants”**

**May 8 (note this is the second Monday)**

Meeting Host home – Manjeet Singh (Jasmine)

Co-Hostesses Macy Hovland (Succulents)

Lynne Lansberg (Christmas Cactus

REPORT ON SUCCULENTS IN CONTAINERS

Commonly called Stonecrop or houseleeks. Often nursery labels will only say “Succulent”.

genus: many, including Aeonium, Agave, Aloe, Crassula, Delosperma, Echeveria, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, Pachyphktu, Portulaca, Sedum, Sempervivum, and other plants with water holding tissues.

HABITAT: Succulents are usually native to dry desert or chaparral regions and mountainous slopes and they generally thrive in poor soils (sandy/rocky with low nutrition).

USES: Succulents usually have very shallow root systems, so they can be made into creative arrangements.

Airplants hot-glued to driftwood or in wire hangers (Aerium)

Hen and chicks in strawberry pots

Mixed succulents in containers that sit on hot concrete walks or porches

Mixed succulents in deck planters

Hypertufa plantings

Vertical hangings

Terrariums (always open)

Living Wreaths

CULTURE

Soil: Potting soil holds too much moisture and can cause rot. Use a Succulent or cactus mix or mix soil with sand, peddles.

Planting: Use a container with good drainage holes.

Watering: weekly in summer, monthly in winter. If leaves pucker, water more. Let potting mix dry between watering. Damp soil or mulch will rot leaves.

Fertilizing: Use a cactus fertilizer

Cultivation: Some need to be broken back or removed from the colony after flowering. Remove dead or decaying leaves to keep insects at bay.

Site: Succulents love the sun.

Mulching: Do not use wood or moisture-holding mulch, use sand or pebbles on surface of soil. Plants like to be crowded and when filled in, there is no surface soil visible

Propagation: many succulents can be propagated by leaf. Some have “chicks” or “pups” which can be pulled off. Jovibarba are called rollers, the chicks on top of the mother rosette pop off and roll away.

Post-season care: When planting mixed containers, all with tender plants must be brought indoors for winter.

SOURCE – When purchasing, check the label for hardiness. Many will winter over in Maryland: Autumn Joy sedum, hen and chicks, Dragon’s blood, Jovibarba, Sedum reflexum “Angelina”, Sempervivum. We are in zone 7B.

Available at Amazon, many big box stores like Lowe’s, Home Depot, Walmart,most nurseries, on-line.

Display gardens:

Ruth Bancroft’s Garden in Walnut Creek CA <http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>

Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix

Balboa Park in San Diego

San Diego Botanical Garden

Fifty ways to use succulents:

<https://homebnc.com/best-succulent-garden-ideas>

Container designs from Sunset:

ww.sunset.com/garden/garden-basics/succulent-plants

