

## MORROW COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



# SUCCULENT PUMPKINS

Every arrangement needs a thriller, Filler and Spiller

### Supplies

Pumpkin or Gourd

Succulents

Need several sizes, shapes and colors (don't forget cascading)

Healthy succulents have leaves that are plump, firm and don't bend

Break off any dirt, leaving roots (roots may need to be trimmed)

Cuttings need to callus off for at least 2 days

If you have to trim leaves, save them to propagate later

Moss

Reindeer, Spanish, Forest Moss, etc.

Adhesive Spray or Tacky Glue

Hot Glue Gun

Skewer, Chop Stick, etc.

Other Embellishments, i.e. Dry Flowers, Small Gourds, Picks, etc.

### Assembling Your Succulent Pumpkin

**Think about your design and try to make it look as natural as possible. There is no wrong or right way.**

Clean any dirt from your pumpkin and break off the stem

If you are stacking smaller gourds in the center, now is the time to hot glue them in place

Choose a piece(s) of moss, approximately ¼-1/2 inch thick, that will cover the top of your pumpkin

Spray the top of your pumpkin with the spray adhesive and place moss on top, pressing in place

Choose a large succulent(s) for the center and hot glue in place

Choose smaller sizes of succulents, using different textures and colors. Working from center out, lift the skirts of larger succulents, tucking smaller ones under, and hot glue in place. Pack tightly, as succulents may start to shrink in about a week.

White succulents, or filler, will make succulent colors pop

Rotate your pumpkin, as you work, to make sure the top is full and shapely, especially if you intend it to be a centerpiece

Fill in bare areas with additional moss and succulents, hot glue in place

Other embellishments can be added at this time

Clean up any loose glue (threads of hot glue) and strings of moss

Enjoy your arrangement!

Mist the succulents twice weekly and your succulent pumpkin should last approximately 2 months. You can also use a medicine dropper to water the succulents at their roots/base of plant. Do not over-water. Over-watered succulents will start to look translucent, discolor (yellow), feel soggy to touch and leaves will drop off easily. Under-watered succulents will have leaves that feel rubbery and bend easily. They will then progress to shrivel and wrinkle. Water thoroughly at the base of the succulent, but do not allow to stand in water. If succulent does not look, or feel, any more firm in 3-4 days, water again.

Your succulent pumpkin arrangement will also need at least 1 hour of sunlight daily.

When the pumpkin starts to spoil, or you wish to dismantle it, cut the top of the pumpkin off with succulents attached. Hollow out the pulp underneath the pumpkin top, leaving a thin shell. Choose a container, with drainage, large enough for the top to completely sit on succulent/cactus soil. Place the top on the soil and water once every 1-2 weeks. The succulents will root through the thin shell, moss and glue. Next spring you will have succulents to break apart and plant. Remember to allow any cuttings, without roots, to callus off for at least 2 days before planting.