

IN THE GARDEN

WITH MR. GREENJEANS

by Randy Arnowitz

Rock Replacement

Dear Mr. Greenjeans,

I have an unusual garden problem. I recently bought a home in a canyon that borders a creek bed. The soil in my new garden is very dark, silty and rich and because it is so sandy it seems that I have to water my lawn and garden beds frequently. The problem is that whenever I plant a new shrub, rose or anything for that matter, I end up taking out large rocks and stones from the planting hole and I don't have enough soil to backfill the hole with. Should I be taking away the rocks and if so, what soil should I replace the rocks with? Thanks for your help.

Signed,
Harried in Hot Springs

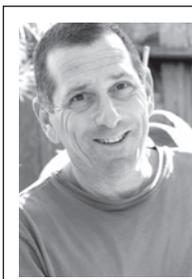
Dear Harried,

Not such a bad problem, as it could be worse. You could be pulling fist-sized, sticky wads of clay out of your planting holes and that ain't fun unless you're a potter.

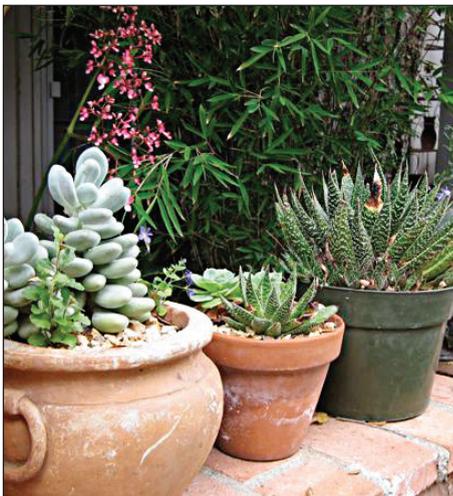
Anyway, back to your lack of soil dilemma. I can think of two solutions. The first is, if you have enough property you could steal some soil from another part of the yard and use that for backfill.

However, if you're property is small, and you have many plants to install you can buy a scoop or a yard of some clean topsoil if you can find some. If you're working with only a few plants, you can buy clean sandy topsoil by the bag at some garden centers. Keep in mind you are not going to use potting soil but topsoil and it will say that on the bag.

Regardless of which option you choose, you can still amend the backfill with some good, rich compost – either store bought or home-made.



Randy – Mr. Greenjeans – resides in a potting shed with 200 orchids and his golden retriever "Peaches." He enthusiastically welcomes your gardening questions; address them to greenjeansmr@verizon.net.



Many succulents will burn in full afternoon sun

Toasted Succulents

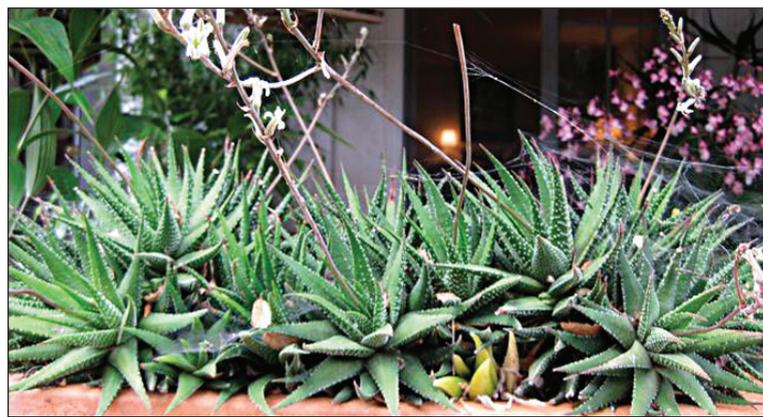
Dear Mr. Greenjeans,

I have a question regarding my cacti and succulents. It seems that when I bring them home from the nursery in their little 4-inch pots they look really good and healthy. However, after a few weeks they start to look like what I can only describe as sun burned or scorched. What could be the problem? I know these types of plants like a lot of light and little water, so I put them out in the sun and water them every few weeks. Sometimes I repot them into larger pots. Any clues as to why I'm losing my new plants?

Thanks in advance,
Toasted on Toro Canyon

Dear Toasted,

Although many cacti and succulents will endure full sun, they actually



These haworthias will stay greener in bright morning light

do much better and look healthier if grown in less than blaring afternoon sun. Often, overexposed succulents such as some haworthias and sedums will have a bleached out yellow or even red coloration to them. However, morning sun or very bright dappled light will keep these plants happy and content.

Take notice that when you purchase these little guys at the nursery they are usually not sitting out there in full sun. Terra Sol Nursery (5320 Overpass Road, Santa Barbara) always has a large selection of awesome succulents and if I'm not mistaken they are displayed under some type of shade or lath material. We're not talking deep shade here but the maximum light possible short of unprotected all-day sun.

If you must keep your small succulents out in the sun, they will adapt more successfully and with less burn

if you gradually get them used to the more intense light. Many of these specimens are propagated in bright, diffused greenhouses and just can't go from this exposure to full-on sunshine.

Regarding the watering situation. Yes, these plants are succulent and somewhat forgiving and their fleshy stems and leaves do store water, but when kept in small containers their roots really should not be allowed to dry out completely. When planted directly in your garden they can go a little longer between watering because they may have developed a larger root system; in a pot they are at your mercy.

If you're looking to grow something a little more durable, agaves, aloes and other larger, hardened-off succulents grown in bigger containers generally will perform better in hotter, sunnier exposures.

Santa Barbara Studio Artists

2011
Tour



38 Professional Artists Open Their Studios
Saturday & Sunday August 27 & 28, 2011

Preview Exhibition: Through August 28

Opening Artists Reception
August 26

Santa Barbara Frame Shop & Gallery
1324 State Street
Opposite the Arlington Theater

For Complete Information:
www.SantaBarbaraStudioArtists.com
or call: (805) 280-9178

Sponsored By: *Montecito JOURNAL*

VOTING! IT'S YOUR AMERICAN RIGHT!

Best of Santa Barbara® Readers' Poll 2011

Please take just a moment to exercise YOUR right to vote in this year's upcoming Reader's Poll!

LINDA BAILEY
Owner
1211 Coast Village Rd., Ste #7
Montecito, CA 93108
805.452.4221
info@lindasglow.com
www.lindasglow.com
BEL VISO
European skin care