



PHILADELPHIA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

founded 1942

www.philacactus.org

PICNIC 2021

JULY 31, 2021

11:00 AM (AUCTION TO START AROUND 1PM)

BOB SPARROW'S HOME

572 Fulmer Road Nazareth, PA 18064

Any questions .. Call Bob

H: 610.759.6691 or C: 610.390.3085

Cash or check

Bring lunch, snacks, drinks & chairs!

Bring plants to share, swap, or
donate to the auction!



BUILDING AN ETHICAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT COLLECTION

Cactus and succulent species are at risk



One third of all cactus species (Cactaceae) are at risk of extinction¹, and so are many succulents, including Dudleya, Dioscorea, and Pachypodium². Half of threatened cacti are at-risk at least in part by the horticultural trade³. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram influences desire for old and rare cacti and succulents from habitat^{3, 4}.

Cactus and succulents are central in dry ecosystems



Cacti and succulents store water in their tissues, provide nesting areas and food for wildlife, photosynthesize, store carbon, and even provide a place for some insects to lay eggs where they can be protected until they develop into adults. These plants play an essential role in dryland ecosystems and must be protected.

Building your collection

1 Check the source before you buy

- Use caution when buying online.
- Was it nursery grown, or habitat collected?
- Is it a species at risk?

2 Buy from reputable plant sellers

- Search for an approved grower.
- Ask your cactus and succulent community.
- Ask previous customers.

3 Grow your own cacti and succulents

- Plant from seed.
- Propagate from a cutting or leaf.
- Buy and nurture young plants from collectors.

4 Educate yourself and spread the word

- Learn more about poaching.
- Join a cactus club or online community.
- Volunteer with a conservation group.

Plants to be cautious of when purchasing

Slow-growing rare plants sold online are more likely to be field-collected because their habitat characteristics are hard to replicate in a nursery and the time it takes to grow reduces practical and economic feasibility. If you're looking for rare plants for your collection, ask experts in your cactus and succulent community for help finding ethical sources or check the website for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Examples include:



Aztekium



Pachypodium



Dudleya

Identifying field-collected vs. greenhouse-grown

Wild plants tend to face harsher growing conditions than greenhouse-grown plants leading to features which can help you identify the source. These characteristics are not always diagnostic, so when in doubt ask a community expert.



Poaching impacts on wild populations



Wild populations can be significantly reduced by poaching. For example, in 2015, 3500 *Ariocarpus fissuratus* were stolen from Big Bend National Park⁵. Large-scale harvest of slow-growing wild cacti can decimate habitat populations by removing the mature, reproductive plants. This demonstrates how wild and illegal field collection for the horticultural trade is a significant threat to the survival of cacti and succulents in habitat.

This map highlights regions with high levels of cacti and succulents at-risk including Southern Mexico, Chile, and southern Africa, including Madagascar, which face poaching impacts¹.



Cylindropuntia cinerea which are ~45 cm/18 in. tall and take ~100 years to reach this size in habitat. When they are removed from the wild, all that is left are holes in the ground.

Find out more at:
www.ethicalcactus.com

¹ Goettsch, B., Hilton-Taylor, C., Cruz-Philon, G. et al. High proportion of cactus species threatened with extinction. *Nature Plants*. 2015

² <https://www.iucn.org/species-groups/plants-fungi/cactus-and-succulent-plants-specialist-group/cites-species> (Accessed Jan 31 2021)

³ Margules, J.D. (2020). In *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (Vol. 8, p. 367). <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fecv.2020.604921>

⁴ Hinsley, A., Lee, T.E., Harrison, J.R., & Roberts, D.L. (2016). *Conservation Biology*, 30(5), 1038–1047. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12721>

⁵ Annette McGivney. "Yanked from the ground": cactus theft is ravaging the American desert. *The Guardian*. [Online]. Published Feb. 20 2019.



Pachypodium succulatum
Irene Cassidy

Opuntia 'Walk in Beauty' Chocolate Princess
Robert Gorelick

Check us out on FACEBOOK!!

www.facebook.com/groups/202733996526503

It's a way to share photos and
ask questions about all things
cactus and succulents!



PCSS OFFICERS

President:	Irene Cassidy (latte_datte@yahoo.com cell: 302.883.4644)
Vice-President:	Jeff Sedwin
Treasurer:	Renee Thompson
Recording Secretary:	Paul Wesolowski
Communications:	Timothy Day (timothyday@outlook.com)
Affiliate Representative:	Christina Day
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