

All about Echeveria – efig's 2014 champion

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Some would say that **Echeveria** is the most attractive of all succulents not least for their range of colours and leaf shapes. The rosette formations come smooth and fat to flat and frilly and shades from ghost like white and silver to deep red. There really is an Echeveria for everyone and every occasion.

There are hundreds of different varieties with the rosettes ranging from 2cm across to 50cm. Now that is big! They originate in Central and South America hence their love of warm dry conditions.



On-trend terrariums including one with Echeveria

from Ian Drummond's recent exhibition [An Act of Glass](#) at St Pancras Renaissance Hotel.

Typically of succulents they are really easy to care for and can last without water for a considerable time. Even so they perform better if they receive regular watering – not too much – during the growing season (typically in summer). Make sure you drain them well or their roots will rot. This is also the time to feed them. The Echeveria loves the sun and the light but likes to keep its roots cool too!

In the summertime, they often flower. These consist of small flowers on a long stem. Echeveria produces offsets which can be planted to grow a

new plant. These off sets are called chicks to the mother plants nick name of hen.

They were first discovered in the late 18th Century by artist Atanasio Exheverria – hence its name - on a Royal botanical expedition to Mexico for the King of Spain, Charles III.

Echeveria will be August's Houseplant of the Month.

