

Plant Adaptation Checklist

Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY



☐ **Waxy Leaves**

Some plants have a thick waxy coating on the top of the leaf. This acts almost like chapstick for a plant and helps minimize water loss from the leaves in hot and dry conditions.



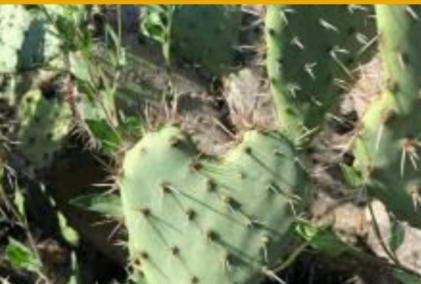
☐ **Light Colored Leaves**

Lighter colored leaves reflect sunlight, which can keep a plant cooler in the hot sun and prevents water loss through the leaves.



☐ **Small Narrow Leaves**

Water leaves a plant through the surface of the leaves. Having smaller leaves means there is less surface area for water to escape the plant.



☐ **Water Storage in Succulent Plants**

Some plants, like cacti, have thick and sturdy stems that can store a lot of water inside the plant for it to use over time in drier conditions.



☐ **Small Hairs on Leaves**

Small hairs on the surface of leaves can reflect sunlight from their surface and reduce the movement of air on their surface, which helps prevent water loss. These can be hard to see sometimes, but the plant might feel soft or hairy to the touch.



☐ **Taco Shaped Leaves**

Some leaves have a bent or folded shape like a taco shell. This bent shape means that sunlight isn't directly hitting the entire leaf at once. This can keep the leaves from drying out from too much sunlight.



☐ **Leaves that die back in dry conditions (drought deciduous)**

Some plants will simply go dormant if conditions are too dry, and their leaves will die back in the summer and fall. Once the plant gets enough water again they will grow back their leaves. Some plants might lose only some of their leaves, and some might go completely dormant.