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## HOT STUFF

### It ain't heavy, it's a faux stone pot

San Francisco painter Tina Vietmeier always dreamed of having a landscaping business. She got her wish when she started Urban Farm Girls, making gardening containers that look like roughly poured cement with a nod to nature.

"It had the look of something ... aged, organic and rustic," she said. They're selling like hotcakes at farmers' markets in Alameda, Mill Valley, San Leandro and the Inner Sunset in San Francisco.

In a container-gardening class, she learned the recipe for making hypertufa pots that combine Perlite, peat moss and cement to yield a container that is as light as volcanic rock.

She went on to experiment with adding in earth and items like acorns, seashells, pebbles, wood shavings and fiber.

The containers are great for aerating and slow drainage because of their porous quality, which seems to be good for plants, particularly the succulents she favors.

At the markets, they are sold empty or already planted with succulents, perennials, salad bowls or small herbal



Urban Farm Girls

**Urban Farm Girls' water-wise pots are ideal for succulents.**

arrangements.

They come in two series — with or without natural elements — and four colors: terra cotta, slate, sienna or natural.

*Prices range from \$4 for a 3-inch pot to \$90 for a 30-inch trough. Available at Design Quarter and Succulence in San Francisco, The Gardener stores in San Francisco, Berkeley and Healdsburg and Green Door Design in Mill Valley. [urbanfarmgirls.com](http://urbanfarmgirls.com).*

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