

Terrariums are technically small self contained gardens. They usually contain smaller varieties of plants and create their own scene or atmosphere. It is very easy to put one together and you can use a variety of containers, either closed or open.

Materials

Glass container

3, 5 or 7 plants (Odd numbered arrangements are more interesting than even numbered arrangements.)

1 bag small stones

1 bag horticultural charcoal (optional)

1 bag potting soil

Small accessories (optional)

All-purpose water soluble fertilizer

Directions

- 1.** Place a layer of decorative rocks on the bottom of the container. You can also use marble, glass beads, etc. or anything to allow for good drainage.
- 2.** Add a layer of horticultural charcoal (especially if using a closed container). This will help absorb and filter the fumes and smells from the decomposing plant material.
- 3.** Add a well-draining potting mix (a cactus soil mix works fine). You need a quick draining soil that will keep the plants from sitting in water.
- 4.** Add small, slow growing plants to include in the scene. Care should be taken to group plants with similar water, light exposure and soil requirements. Prune as necessary to keep plants in scale with the container and/or scene.
- 5.** Arrange plants in a way that is pleasing to the eye. You may want to accessorize your scene by adding miniature bridges, buildings, people, etc.

Additionally, you can use your terrarium to house a collection of plants that are not 'planted in'. Surround them with moss and you will create a scene that can be easily changed. Another option - use your terrarium to showcase one individual plant.

Caring for your terrarium

Check on it every day. If the soil is dry, water it. If you can see water among the stones, wait a few days to water. Fertilize lightly in early spring.

PLANT AND ENJOY!