

TERRARIUMS

How to Create and Maintain Them

Definition: Terrariums are any transparent container (usually glass) in which plants are grown inside or under. They can be an elegant, decorative, fun and easy way to bring nature inside or to provide a 'window onto another world.'

Venue: Any clear container that is water-tight and has some type of cover is suited to become a 'closed terrarium.' These can become their own ecosystem by remaining moist for long periods of time. Ex: cold frames, lantern cloches, Wardian cases, cloches (bell jars), tureens, apothecary jars, and canning jars with lids.

Open containers allow for evaporation so are better suited for plants that require dryer conditions such as succulents. Ex: aquarium, open jars, vases, hurricane lanterns.

... be creative.

Making the Case:

½ inch layer of gravel on the bottom *pea gravel, marbles, stones*
(landscape fabric, sphagnum moss)

Thin layer of activated charcoal *to sweeten soil*

Appropriate potting soil/medium, enough to cover plant roots *bonsai soil (grainy) has charcoal*

Now plant. Do not crowd plants, allow room for plants to grow.

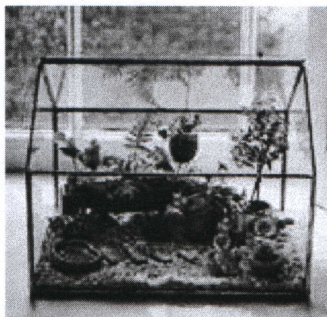
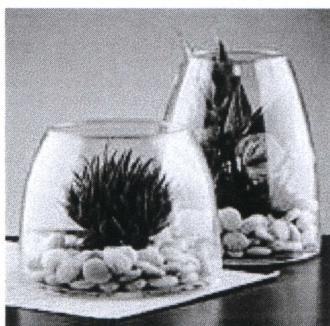
Now decorate (moss, twigs, stones, toys, etc.) ... be creative ... have fun!

Plants: Baby's tears, begonias, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, creeping fig, ferns, fittonia, gesneriads, ivies, maidenhair vine, mosses, orchids, ornamental grasses, peperomias, pileas, violas. Small leaved and slow growing plants are ideal.

Not ideal: cacti, succulents, alpine and rock garden plants, herbs, most flowering and sun-loving plants.

Always group plants that have similar needs.

Care: Keep your terrarium in bright, indirect light. Do NOT overwater your terrarium; never allow water level to rise into soil level. Open your terrarium for a day to allow it to dehumidify when needed. Some condensation is normal and appropriate.



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