



KOKEDAMA CARE GUIDE

*A Simple, Confident Care Guide for Your
Moss Ball Plant*



W R I G H T I N T H E G A R D E N



WHAT IS KOKEDAMA?

Kokedama is a Japanese planting technique in which a plant's root system is encased in a sculpted ball of soil and wrapped in moss, eliminating the need for a traditional pot. The moss ball itself becomes the vessel.

Unlike traditional potted plants—which rely on rigid containers and hidden soil—kokedama invites interaction. It is lifted, observed, soaked in water, and cared for through touch and attention.

One of the benefits of kokedama is that the plant itself communicates when it needs care. By observing weight, texture, and appearance, you can respond naturally rather than relying on strict schedules

HOW WATERING WORKS

WATERING YOUR KOKEDAMA

Kokedama is watered differently than traditional plants. Instead of watering from the top, the moss ball is soaked.

To water:

- ◆ Place the moss ball into a bowl or basin
- ◆ Add room-temperature water until submerged
- ◆ Allow it to soak for **20-30 minutes**
- ◆ Remove and allow excess water to drain fully
- ◆ Return it to its display location

The moss ball absorbs only the water it can hold, similar to a sponge.

THE WEIGHT TEST

The easiest way to know when your kokedama needs water is the weight test and feel test.

Pick up the moss ball and feel its weight and the moss.

If the moss ball feels:

Heavy or cool —→ wait before watering

Light and dry —→ it is ready to soak

When unsure, waiting a day is usually the safest choice.

Over time this becomes instinctive as you become familiar with the plant.



WATERING RHYTHM GUIDE

TYPICAL WATERING RHYTHM

Every home environment is different, but these general rhythms are helpful starting points.

◆ HOUSEPLANTS

Water approximately every **7-10 days**

Do the weight and feel test every 7 days and if it is light and dry water. If it feels heavy or cool/moist on the bottom give it the few extra days.

◆ SUCCULENTS AND DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS

Water approximately every **2-4 weeks**

Pick either 2, 3 or 4 weeks and stick to that. Bright indirect light with good airflow watering will be closer to that 2-3 weeks. Medium indirect light will be around the 3-4 weeks in-between watering.

Light levels, temperature, airflow, and display style will all affect drying speed. Observation is always the final guide.



LIGHT & TROUBLESHOOTING

LIGHT & PLACEMENT

Kokedama plants generally prefer **indirect light**

A simple guide:

- ◆ **0-3 feet from a window**
Bright indirect light
- ◆ **3-6 feet from a window**
Medium indirect light
- ◆ **6-10 feet from a window**
Lower indirect light

Avoid placing kokedama directly in front of heating vents or strong airflow, as this can cause the moss ball to dry too quickly.

QUICK TROUBLESHOOTING

Most plant issues come down to light, watering rhythm, or airflow.

- ◆ **Yellow Leaves**
Often a sign that the soil is staying wet too long. Always ask yourself did I just water or has it been awhile. To judge is it too much water or has it been awhile.
- ◆ **Crispy or Browning Edges**
Usually caused by excessive light or rapid drying.
- ◆ **Soft or Drooping Leaves**
Often means the plant has dried too far and needs watering.
- ◆ **White Mold on Moss**
Typically a sign of limited airflow. Increasing circulation usually resolves it.

Small changes and observation usually restore balance.



CARE PHILOSOPHY

Kokedama does not ask for perfection.

It asks for attention.

Over time you will begin to recognize the signals your plant gives you — the weight of the moss ball, the texture of the moss, and the small changes in the leaves.

Observation becomes the guide.

Less is often best.

Change one thing at a time.

And when unsure, wait a day.

READY TO GO BEYOND CARE?

This free guide showed you how to care for your kokedama.

If you want to learn the full craft, the complete handbook walks you through the materials, techniques, and long-term care that make kokedama thrive.

Continue your Kokedama Journey with
The Ultimate Kokedama Mastery Handbook
by Wright in the Garden

Learn the craft.
Grow with confidence.

Click the link to purchase your own digital
download of [The Ultimate Kokedama
Mastery Handbook by Wright in the Garden](#)



THE ULTIMATE KOKEDAMA MASTERY HANDBOOK INCLUDES:

FOUNDATION & PHILOSOPHY

Understand the traditions behind kokedama and how observation and balance guide successful plant care.

MATERIALS & BUILD SCIENCE

Learn what actually makes a kokedama work:

- Soil Structure
- Moss Wrapping
- Plant Compatibility
- Moisture Balance

CARE MASTERY

Go deeper than basic watering:

- Water quality and soaking technique
- Seasonal care adjustments
- Fertilizer timing
- Environmental influences

DISPLAY & STYLING

How placement affects plant health and beauty

- Hanging vs resting displays
- Light positioning
- Airflow considerations

LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Learn how to read plant signals and respond quickly

- Yellowing leaves
- Mold on moss
- Root stress
- Refreshing or rebuilding a kokedama

STEP-BY-STEP BUILD GUIDE

Create your own kokedama from start to finish

- Preparing the plant
- Forming the soil core
- Wrapping with moss
- Securing with twine or rebuilding a kokedama
- First soak and final checks

PRINTABLE REFERENCE TOOLS

Helpful resources you can use again and again

