

Terrarium: Bringing Nature Indoors

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Terrariums are a beautiful and low-maintenance way to bring a touch of nature into your home. These miniature gardens are perfect for small spaces and can be customized to fit any decor style. Whether you're an experienced gardener or a complete beginner, terrariums are an easy and rewarding project that can help you connect with nature and add a unique touch to your living space.

What is a terrarium?

A terrarium is like an aquarium, but for plants instead of fish. It is made in just about any glass container. The terrarium is a group of plants growing inside a glass-enclosed container. It is planted to look like a miniature garden or forest enclosed in its own little world. It's simple to create and maintain a little garden in a glass container. You can use any number of pots and plants that you have on hand. To create small settings, you can add rocks, shells, or pieces of bark in addition to plants. You and your loved ones or friends can enjoy this indoor gardening pastime. A terrarium makes a thoughtful gift, too.

Types of Terrariums

There are two main types of terrariums: open and closed. Open terrariums are designed to mimic dry or arid environments and usually include plants such as succulents or cacti. On the other hand closed terrariums are designed to mimic humid or tropical environments and are typically planted with ferns, moss, or other plants that thrive in a moist environment. Closed terrariums also require less maintenance, as the enclosed environment creates its own water cycle.



Fig.1. Open terrariums



Fig. 2. Closed terrariums

How it works?

In addition to providing protection from dust, wind, and temperature fluctuations, the glass walls let light into the plants. Typically, the plants that are utilized are those that have a high moisture requirement. As a result, the terrarium is configured to produce an extremely humid environment, meaning that there is a lot of water in the air.

How it functions?

Plants release gaseous water vapour, or water, from their leaves. Water vapour condenses, or turns into liquid, when air inside the container comes into contact with the cooler glass walls. This water seeps into the bottom soil as it flows down the sides of the container. At that point, the plants can absorb the water through their roots. You won't often need to water your terrarium because the water is reusable. A lid should always be on the container to protect the water from escaping and maintain a high humidity level.

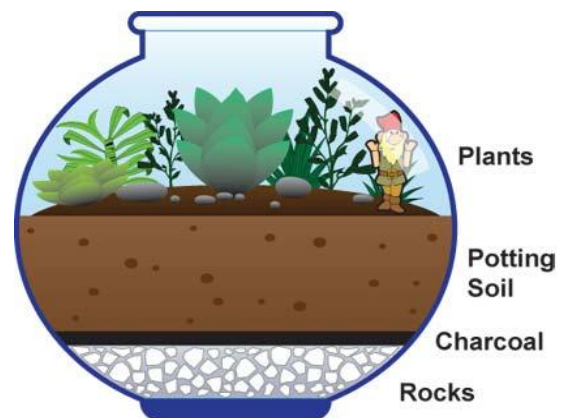


Fig. 3. Different layers of a terrarium

The things need for making a terrarium are

- Containers
- Soil
- Fertilizer (optional)
- Drainage material
- Plants
- Accessories
- Tools for planting

Containers

You'll need a glass container that can be seen through easily. Glass that is foggy or coloured lets less light reach the plant. You can use any size container, depending on how many plants you wish to use. To regulate moisture, the container needs to have a removable cover. If the lid of your container is missing, you can cover it with a piece of plastic or glass.

- Fish bowls,
- Fish tanks or aquarium
- Candy jars
- Glass bowl
- Conical flask, glass beakers or any transparent glass container can be used

Soil

A layer of soil between one and two inches deep needs to be created at the bottom of the container. A permeable soil is necessary for proper drainage. For planting, it should be slightly damp. Sand, peat moss, and garden soil in equal portions (1:1:1).

Drainage material

Because terrariums lack the drainage holes seen in outside pots, provisions must be made to allow excess water to drain. In very small containers, a layer of moss on the terrarium's bottom can act as a drainage layer. Regarding huge containers before the moss layer, you might add a layer of sand or fine gravel, charcoal, broken pieces of clay flower pots, or both.

Choosing of Plant for terrarium

Use slow-growing small plants. The plant should be fill but not crammed inside the container. You can gather plants from nearby nurseries, your own yard, etc. This is merely a suggested list; it is by no means comprehensive.

- Syngonium species
- Sansevieria species
- Bilbergia species
- Aechmea species
- Cryptanthus species
- Selaginella (Creeping moss, Peacock Fern, Spreading Clubmoss, Resurrection plant)
- Hedera helix (small leaf varieties)
- Pellionia (Watermelon Pellionia, Satin Pellionia)
- Maranta species (Herringbone Plant, Rabbit's Tracks, Prayer Plant)
- Peperomia species
- Small ferns
- Filtonia species (Snakesin Plant, Little Snakesin Plant, Nerve Plant, Little Nerve Plant, Painted Net Leaf, Silver Net Leaf)
- Money Plant (Pothos)
- Pilea (Creeping Charlie, Creeping Jenny, Aluminium, Friendship & Artillery Plant)
- Helxinesoleirolii (Mind Your Own Business Plant, Baby's Tears)

Other accessories (This adds beauty and Variety)

- Coloured pebbles
- Small toys
- Shells
- Barks
- Stones etc.

Planning

Plan the arrangement of your terrarium after choosing a container. Plants can be arranged in any pattern you choose. To add interest, people might wish to add some small pebbles, driftwood, or even stones. However, don't overcrowd the design with ornaments; they will simply detract from its organic appearance.

Tools required

1. Trowel
2. Spoon
3. Tongs
4. Rammer
5. Fork cum Rake

Care and maintenance

Once the terrarium is planted with suitable plants, the aftercare part is easy,

- Water sparingly
- Give it light- not direct sun light, diffused or indirect light or near artificial light sources
- Pinch and prune whenever necessary

Conclusion

Terrariums are a unique and beautiful way to bring nature into your home. They are easy to create and require little maintenance, making them a great project for beginners or those with limited space. Whether you choose an open or closed terrarium, the possibilities are endless, and the result is a beautiful, self-contained garden that will add a touch of natural beauty to any space.

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