



1811 2nd St SW
289-6068

7955 18th Ave NW
289-0022

www.sargentsgardens.com

TERRARIUMS

Select a container

1. The container must be glass or another clear substance through which light can pass.
2. It must be large enough opening to allow for the emplacement of soil and plants.
3. The plants should have similar environmental needs.
4. The terrarium must be thoroughly cleaned before use (to prevent bacteria from growing).

Two categories:

1. Open- can tolerate indirect sun but too much can burn leaves that are touching sides of glass.
2. Closed- can also be an open terrarium to which a cover has been added. Indirect light is best. A closed one should never be placed in direct sunlight. (The temperature inside the container will rise considerably and literally cook the plants.)

Planting:

1. Drainage: a terrarium does not have drainage holes. Therefore you must supply a drainage layer to prevent damage to plant roots. Crushed river gravel or small stones work well. You want to use 1 to 2 inches depending on the height of your container. Generally the depth of drainage rock, charcoal and soil should equal about 1/3 the height of the container.
2. Charcoal: on top of the rock-thin layer to help keep the soil fresh.
3. Soil: use enough potting mix so that you can create a "hole" where you want to place the root ball of the plant.
Example: 3" pot add 3" soil to terrarium.
4. Landscaping and planting: place tallest plant in center then add the smaller plants around if the Terrarium will be viewed from all sides or in back if placed against the wall.
Ground cover should be added last. Leave ample space for plants to grow.
You can add moss and stones around them.
Remember it's a miniature landscape, so don't forget to have fun with it and add a miniature animal or a special miniature ornament.
5. Water: water container lightly with a spray bottle.

Maintenance:

Light:

A newly planted terrarium should be placed in shade for about a week. Then adjust light according to the requirements of plants. (Most do better in diffused or filtered light.) Too little light they develop thin stems that are weak and unable to hold up leaves.

Water:

Open terrarium-test before you add water. They should feel barely moist before you add water.

Closed terrarium: these should rarely if ever need water. if walls have too much condensation remove the cover until walls clear.

Plant growth:

Terrarium plants should be scaled to the size of the container. As plants grow prune back those that show signs of overcrowding. Clip and remove dead leaves. Remove plants that become too big. Don't fertilize because you want your plants to stay small.

Molds and mildews:

The presence of mold or mildew indicates that one of three things is wrong. The terrarium may contain too much water, air circulation may be poor, or you've chosen the wrong plants for a closed terrarium. Remove infected plants immediately and correct the environment by letting it dry out or increasing air circulation.

Insects and pests:

Cut out infected area and spray with insecticide.

Cleanliness:

Keep the container clean. Remove moisture or dust from the glass. Remove algae, which may form a green coating on the glass. Clean leaves and remove dead leaves and blossoms promptly to prevent the growth of fungi.

*Closed glass containers trap and hold heat and excess heat may cause death in terrariums.

Recommended plants:

Low light terrariums:

Ferns, mosses, baby tears, Hypoestes, fitonia, ivy, peperomia, sanserveria, schefflera, and miniature orchids.

Closed jars or cloche:

mosses, ferns, rhizomatous begonia, pitcher plant, miniature orchids, venus fly traps, or peperomias

Wardian cased with glass panels:

Due to the air spaces between the glass frames they aren't airtight. As a result humidity may not be as high as an airtight terrarium. Some plants are best to exhibit just set in their own containers.

Some are: Rhizomatous begonias, ferns, carnivorous plants, mosses, orchids, peperomias and pilea.

High light:

open terrariums only, because desert plants require dry soil and low humidity.

Long periods of bright light: cacti, succulents, including jade, aloe, burro's tail echeveria, haworthia and sedum.