



Terrarium Planting

About terrariums:

A terrarium is a self-contained ecosystem that doesn't require too much effort. With the proper tools, information, and plant selection you will have your own miniature, contained garden in no time. The way it works is that the water added to the soil will be soaked up into the plant through the roots. After the plant has made use of the water it will vaporize out through the leaves and create condensation on the inside of the container. This condensation then leaks down the sides of the container, back into the soil and the process repeats. In this way the water, nutrients, and oxygen are all recycled creating a self-contained, efficient environment.

Materials you will need:

Terrarium container

Pebbles (the smaller the better)

Charcoal (horticultural)

Sphagnum moss

Potting soil (with added fertilizer)

Plants (that will work well together)

Pruners (small enough to reach into the container)

Misting bottle

Suggested plants for terrarium use:

- African Violet (*Saintpaulia*)
- Air Plant (*Epiphyte*)
- Baby Tears (*Soleirolia soleirolii*)
- Bridal Veil (*Bacopa*)
- Bromeliad (*Tillandsia*)
- China Doll (*Radermachera*)
- Coleus (*Solenostemon*)
- Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*)
- Croton (*Multiple varieties*)
- Cyclamen
- Dracaena (*Multiple varieties*)
- Earth Star (*Cryptanthus*)
- Fern (*Multiple varieties*)
- Flamingo Flower (*Anthurium*)
- Hawaiian Snowbush (*Breynia Nivosa*)
- Ivy (*Multiple varieties*)
- Juncus
- Moss (*Multiple varieties*)
- Nerve Plant (*Fittonia*)
- Ornamental Peppers
- Radiator Plant (*Peperomia*)
- Palm (*Multiple varieties*)
- Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*)
- Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
- Pilea (*Multiple varieties*)
- Shamrock (*Oxalis*)
- Polka Dot Plant (*Hypoestes*)
- Pothos (*Multiple varieties*)

- Prayer Plant (*Maranta*)
- Purple Passion (*Gynura aurantiaca*)
- Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pudica*)
- Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum*)
- Venus Fly Trap (*Dionaea muscipula*)
- Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia*)

Helpful hints before beginning:

- Glass containers are the best choice for terrariums as it is easier for condensation to trickle back down to the soil
- Choose a container with a rounded or a slanted top as opposed to a flat top, this lets the condensation that collects above leak down the sides back into the soil
- The more air-tight your container is, the less often you will have to water
- Succulents and cacti can only be planted in open-top terrariums, closed-top terrariums will provide too much moisture and will cause them to rot
- Choose plants that have similar water and light requirements
- If you are planting your terrarium with only epiphytes (air plants) you will not need to use all of the required layers such as pebbles and soil
- Do not fill container with too many plants or they will quickly outgrow the container and require removal or replacement
- Be prepared to trim plants immediately after planting, and periodically as they grow
- When trimming plants, cut right above a node or if there isn't a node, then cut right at the base of the leaf
- Do not water terrarium by pouring water inside, as you may easily over water or make a mess of the sides of the container or the plants as the water floods in

How to plant your terrarium:

1. Add 1" to 2" of pebbles to the bottom of the terrarium.
 - Be sure to use horticultural, pre-washed pebbles as pebbles from the outdoors might contain disease.
2. Add ½" to 1" of charcoal next above the rock.
 - This prevents algae from growing in your terrarium which is likely to happen since it is such a moist environment.
3. Add 2" to 3" of sphagnum moss next (uncompressed, as it will be packed down when the soil is added) above the charcoal.
 - This layer easily draws moisture from the bottom layer of pebbles back up into the soil.

4. Add 2" to 3" of potting soil compacting it down along with the sphagnum moss below.
 - Add more soil if the plants you have chosen require a deeper space for the roots.
 - Do not compact too tight or it will be too dense for the water to travel around properly.
5. Planting one plant at a time, dig a small hole where you intend to place the plant. Remove the plant from the grower's pot and massage the roots, removing excess soil. Place the root ball into the hole and fill the dirt in around the base of the plant.
6. Repeat Step 5 for each plant, adding more soil if necessary.
7. Add a ¼" to ½" layer of sphagnum moss or fine orchid bark to the top of the soil.
 - This provides more humidity for the foliage of the plants.
8. Using your fine-tipped pruners, clip off any leaves that are pressed against the side of the container or invading the space of the other plants.
9. Using your misting bottle, spray the plants and the soil until you see that the water has soaked through to the layer of sphagnum moss.

Maintenance of your terrarium:

- Check terrarium about once a month to make sure that there is moisture present inside (if the container is not air tight, it will need to be water more often). If it is not moist, repeat the watering process listed in Step 9.
- Observe the growth of plants and prune when necessary. Slower-growing plants will not need to be trimmed as often and faster-growing plants will. All plants will eventually need to be removed and replaced once they have outgrown the container.
- If you notice any discoloration or unnatural behaviors of the plants, ask a Warner's sales associate for advice.