

How to Grow a Garden in a Bottle (Learn how to make your own terrarium)

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Terrariums are mini indoor gardens that are perfect for people who want to decorate their home or office with houseplants, but don't have a lot of time to care for them. They like terrarium because they can create a desert themed one with cacti and succulents or make a tropical themed one filled with plants like African violets and ferns.



Materials for your Bottle Terrarium

- **Bottle**



- **Small plants**

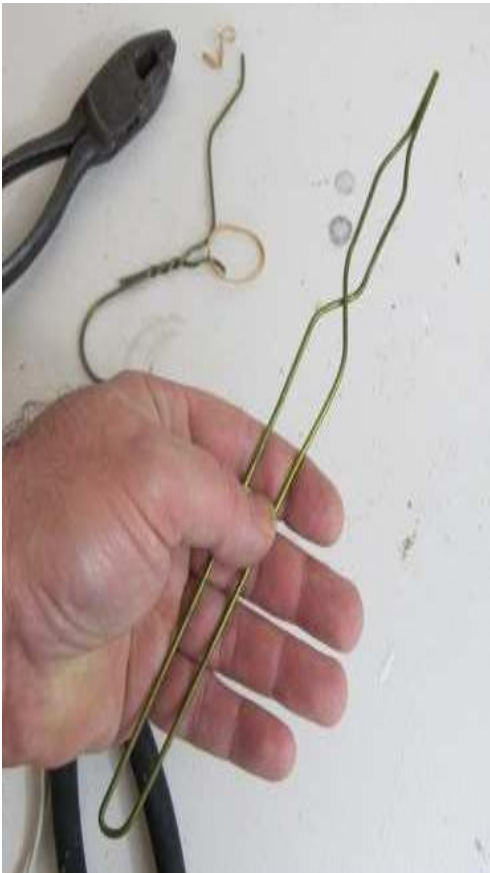


- Seeds - optional (shown in a seed bag)
- Potting Soil - in plastic tray
- Spaghnum Moss or spanish moss
- Small pebbles for drainage
- Activated charcoal

- **Tools - Terrarium kit or spoon/fork etc.**



- Coat hanger cut into strips to be used as tools for thin neck bottle terrarium. You can reach into the bottle with these coat hanger tools.



- **Accessories for decoration**
- Beautiful stones, pebbles, clay/plastic toys, ships etc.



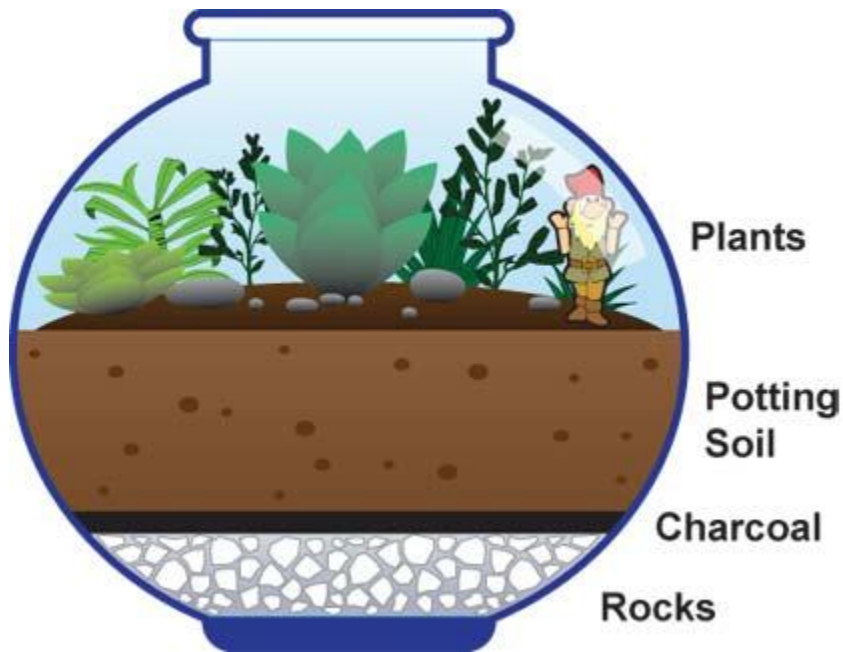
Plants for this terrarium - You have to of course choose small plants, and the plants in the picture look rather large but this close-up shows that the chosen plants can be taken apart at the root.

Separate the different stalks and only place some in the bottle. Plants with thin leaves and a nice Croton with red stripes on its leaves have been chosen. This will add a nice splash of color to the terrarium.



Steps for making a professional terrarium

1. Select a glass container. Large jars, compotes or aquariums are all excellent choices for building a terrarium. Make sure to clean it well with hot, soapy water before you start.



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2. Next you want to create the terrarium's drainage layer. Layer about an inch of large pea gravel in the bottom of the container. If the container has a narrow opening, create a funnel with the paper, then pour the gravel through the funnel and use a chopstick to move the

gravel into place. Add a ½-inch layer of ground charcoal over the gravel.



3. Pour 2 to 3 inches of fresh potting soil over the drainage layer. Use a sterilized soil mix. The soil and drainage layer should take up about 1/4 of the terrarium container's space.



4. Now, put in a nice layer of sphagnum moss to cover the charcoal. This is a protective layer that prevents any soil from seeping through to the bottom.



5. At this point add some soil to the terrarium. Fill it based upon the size of your bowl. However, remember that this is what the plants will be growing in so try to at least have a few inches of soil.



6. Select small plants that all require the same type of care. For example, use all tropical sun-loving or all drought-tolerant plants. Never mix plants with different growing requirements. Remove the plants from their containers. Trim off any yellow or brown foliage. Remove any extra soil from around the roots, then tease the roots apart gently, and place the plants into the planting holes. Cover the roots with soil and gently firm the soil around each plant.
7. Water the terrarium after all the plants are in place. Use a funnel to wash the sides of the terrarium as you water.
8. If you created a tropical terrarium, you have the option of covering the jar with a lid or glass dish.

This step will seal the environment and create a miniature rain forest. Just be aware that sealed terrariums are at risk of overheating if placed near a sunny window.

Skip this step if you used drought tolerant plants, such as cacti and succulents, as it will create too humid of an environment for them.

A few pictures of the terrarium you can create:









