

Supplies Needed:

- Large Glass Jar with Lid
- Drainage Materials - rocks and/or horticulture charcoal
- Soil
- Plants
- Decorations

Instructions:

A terrarium is a collection of small, decorative plants growing in an enclosed environment. Terrarium containers are typically transparent and provide an opening big enough to allow the gardener to access the plants inside. Because the glass container is enclosed, moisture becomes trapped inside the jar. Therefore, terrariums require very little care.

Most terrarium containers need to be large. The minimum size should be ½ gallon, but it is recommended for the jars to be larger than that. The jar needs a lid - hinge-style, screw-on lid, or removable (that is replaced).

Add a 1-inch layer of rocks to the bottom of the container. The rocks should be small in diameter. Next, add some horticulture charcoal on top of the rocks. This helps provide drainage and to prevent the soil from molding. Next, add your potting soil. This layer should be 2-3 inches thick, depending on the size of your container.

Finally, add your plants. Select plants that are small enough for your glass jar. These plants should not touch the side of your jar because you will want there to be plenty of space for the plants to grow. Plants that do well with humidity are most likely to thrive in the terrarium. Plants such as succulents and cacti should not be used in an enclosed terrarium. The container will get too humid, and these plants will rot. You may want to add mosses, lichens, and/rocks. These items can help keep the soil in place. Some people choose to put small trinkets and décor in their terrariums. Consider being creative!

Over time, water-droplet condensation should build-up on the inside of the glass jar. This makes the terrarium “self-sustaining,” and you won’t have to water it. If the terrarium gets cloudy/foggy, you should remove the lid and allow it to dry out. The water droplets should be clear. Enjoy!

Note: Many times, 4-H’ers can enter their terrariums in local and state fair competitions. If you are interested in entering your terrarium into a contest, check with your 4-H leader about rules, size requirements, etc.

Developed By: Kasey Bozeman, Extension 4-H Specialist, 2020.

