Intro to Dry-Climate Terrarium Building

Dry climate terrariums are becoming extremely popular because of how beautiful and easy they are to care for. Most are filled with plants that are extremely drought tolerant and resilient, such as succulents and cacti. I prefer to use our 2” cacti and succulents such as: Adromischus, Crassula, Echeveria, Graptoveria, Lithops, Pachyphytum, Pachyveria, Sedums, and nearly any cacti! Simply because they are easy to get into most terrariums, root in easily, require little maintenance and are just so darn cute!

What you’ll need

* 3-5 cacti and/or succulents
* Cacti potting soil
* Scoop
* Decorative rock
* Mister
* Fairy garden items
* Clear glass lid-less container
* Gravel
* Sphagnum moss
* Horticultural charcoal

What to do

1. Set up a clean place indoors to gather your supplies.
2. Select a clear glass container and wash it out with hot soapy water, dry completely.
3. Add 1 to 1 ½ inches of gravel to the bottom of the container.
4. Place about a ½ inch of sphagnum moss on top of the gravel, this will act as a barrier to keep the smaller sand and soil particles from collecting at the bottom of the terrarium.
5. Sprinkle a small amount of activated horticultural charcoal over the sphagnum moss to add oxygen to the soil.
6. Optional layer: sprinkle layers of sand in for layered look, if desired.
7. Scoop 2”-4” of moist cacti soil into the terrarium (depending on size), you can add pumice for extra drainage.
8. Plant your 3-5 chosen dry climate plants into the terrarium.
9. Spray soil to help soil and roots settle.
10. Personalize with decorative rocks and/or fairy garden décor as desired.

Care instructions

Sun: full sun year round, move away from drafty windows in winter. Add supplemental light if necessary.

Temperature: keep between 55-75 degrees.

Water: water about once a week in summer, once every 2-4 weeks in winter. Remember, these plants thrive on independence and usually come from origins of full sun and dry weather. Mist the soil (not the plants) about once a week in the summer and once every 2-4 weeks in the winter. If water accumulates at the bottom of the terrarium in the rock layer, decrease watering until it the water is used up.

Feeding: does not need to be fertilized. If you chose to fertilize, dilute a liquid cacti fertilizer to half strength and feed once a month during growing season.