

Terrarium Care

When making a terrarium choose from closed, open to closed and open or dish garden. You want to make sure to pick the right plants for your container. This is a general care slip you may find that you will want to adjust these guidelines for your home environment.

Closed terrariums:

Closed terrariums maintain the most humidity so you want to choose plants that would prefer more humidity like ferns. Keep the lids on as much as possible to retain the moisture. Usually these plants will want lower light so be sure to not put your terrarium in direct sunlight. East facing windows generally offer enough light for these plants.

watering: depending on how often the lid is on will determine the amount of water, it doesn't hurt to check every few weeks as long as it has stayed closed. Depending on the size of the container will also determine how much water you will need. Once established these terrariums will support themselves and you may find you rarely water it.

tip: after making the terrarium thoroughly saturate the soil, this could be anywhere from 1/2 - 1 1/2 cups of water. These plants are more forgiving of being overwatered and you will be able to see any excess water in the gravel layer of your terrarium

Open to Closed terrariums

These terrariums can have the lid on or off. Tropical plants like palm, peperomia, pilea and arrowheads work well in these types of terrariums. These can have the lids either on or off and can tolerate brighter light. Anywhere from an East facing to South facing window (bright indirect light) will be good.

watering: depending on how often the lid is off will determine the amount of water needed. Usually these need to be watered every few weeks, the size of the container will determine how much water you use. start with 1/2 - 1 1/2 cups water. If the soil feels or looks wet still from the last time it was watered then hold off and wait until the soil has dried out a bit.

Open and dish gardens

Open terrariums and dish gardens do not require a cover and should stay open. Succulents and Cacti work great in these containers. These can also take more sunlight, South to Southwest windows will work well you may want to move them closer to the window in the winter and move it back just a bit in the summer. Depending on the cacti or succulent some can burn in direct light but most of them would prefer the most sunlight you can give them.

watering: normally these plants like infrequent thorough watering where the soil is thoroughly saturated and excess water is allowed to drain out. Since these will only have a layer of gravel to hold the excess, water infrequently but with about 1/4 - 1/2 cup of water every month spring through summer cut back in the winter to once every 2 months.

Referenced University of Missouri extension