

Terrarium Care Sheet

Terrariums are small living worlds that we have the pleasure of watching grow. They operate on the same premise as the earth. The rain falls, then evaporates into the air, gathers in the clouds, and falls again.

CARING FOR YOUR CLOSED TERRARIUM

Watering: Because terrariums recycle their moisture, they need very little attention. Once the right humidity balance is established, a closed terrarium can often go a month or more between watering. They actually thrive on neglect! Do not OVERWATER and always err on the side of caution. Once the terrarium gets dry, drip water at the roots with a turkey baster. For closed terrariums, remove the lid for a few hours every week to 10 days as air circulation is necessary for them to thrive.

Maintenance: Many plants in a terrarium will gradually outgrow their limited space. Do not be afraid to trim & prune! A little trimming quickly promotes side shoots that fill out plants. Be sure to remove all vegetation trimmed from the terrarium. You should also trim tips if they start to touch the glass. Remove any plant that begins to rot. Rot is often associated with too much moisture. If this occurs in a closed container, remove the cover to allow more drying.

Light: Terrariums are perfect for dorm rooms or offices because they require little light but be sure to keep your terrarium away from direct sun as the sun through the glass will cook your plants. It's okay to place in a bright area, but not in direct sunlight.

Fertilizing: Do not fertilize. As the nutrients get used up the plants' growth will slow down, helping to keep them under control.

CARING FOR YOUR SUCCULENT TERRARIUM

Watering: Succulents live in arid environments and need very little water, especially when grown in a terrarium. You can spray them with a light mist every week, or water them every other week with a tiny bit of water by dripping water near the roots. It is much better to underwater than overwater these plants, as overwatering can lead to rot, which will kill the plants. If the plants are not getting enough water, their leaves may start to shrivel and droop a bit, but they recover quickly once you water them.

Light: Succulents like plenty of indirect light. They do well placed near a window that gets only indirect light for most of the day. Too much direct sunlight will burn the plants as the terrarium can get very warm.

Fertilizing: Succulents require nutrients and should be applied only in spring and summer, at two- to four-week intervals, at approximately one-quarter the dosage recommended on the label. No fertilizer is required from mid-September to March.

Maintenance: Succulents require little maintenance. To discourage rot, it is best to remove fallen leaves from the terrarium. It is also good to allow the terrarium to receive fresh air from an open window when the weather allows.

