

# Fairy Gardens

Resource: Sargent's Nursery

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Creating a miniature landscape or fairy garden can be enjoyable for all ages. These cute, pint sized gardens planted with paths, tiny furniture, tools and more can be created for indoors or out. This information should give you some suggestions for getting started on a miniature garden of your own.

## Pick a container

Be creative when selecting containers. Any pot with a saucer will work great and you can hide them inside a larger container, like a fun picnic basket. Old wheelbarrows, bird bath tops, shallow containers are all good choices, but allow proper drainage to prevent soggy roots.

## Add soil

Whether planting for indoors or out be sure to use quality potting. A good potting mix will drain well, but also hold moisture and nutrients that the plants need.

## Select plants

Once you decide where your miniature garden will live, pick the plants to suit that spot. Choose plants with small-leaves with small branches or stems that will stay small. Also, look for slow growing plants such as miniature conifers that grow < 1" per year or slow-growing dwarfs at less than 3" per year and plants that can stay small by pruning. Herbs are also a smart choice because they stay small with just a little trimming, grow easily and offer wonderful fragrance.

The plants listed below grow best in a sunny morning spot with some afternoon shade. If there's no shade, select sun-loving succulents, annuals, and herbs. For indoor gardens, start with smaller houseplants and those with smaller leaves suited to your indoor location.

## Sun-loving succulents

Hens-and-chicks (*Sempervivum*), various varieties  
Sedum, Fulda Glow  
Blue Spruce creeping sedum  
Golden moss (*Sedum acre*)

## Herbs

Lavender  
Lemon thyme  
Woolly thyme  
Creeping thyme  
Rosemary  
Oregano

**Dwarf trees**

Dwarf cypress  
Dwarf barberry  
Dwarf juniper  
Dwarf Mugo Pine

**Ornamental grasses**

Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*)

**Creeping groundcovers**

Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans* 'Burgundy Glow' or 'Chocolate Chip')  
Creeping Jenny  
Irish moss Scotch moss  
Creeping speedwell  
Creeping phlox

**Foliage favorites**

*Oxalis* 'Charmed Wine'  
My Monet weigela (*My Monet Weigela* 'Verweig')  
Miniature hostas  
Artemisia, Silver Mound

**Fairy flowers**

Bellflower (*Campanula carpatica*),  
Dianthus  
Tiarella

**Accessorize** Create paths and seating areas--and add miniature fences, furniture, pots and garden tools. Tables, benches, arbors, gates and many more items are available.

**Invite fairies** Leave them to the imagination, or pick characters at a fairy garden supplier.

**Care**

Keep the soil moist to the touch, but not soaking wet. To water, use a small watering can rather than a powerful spray hose that can wash away small materials. Trim plants when they overgrow their spaces.