

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.