



Bottle Garden

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN TERRARIUM



Here's my short 7 step guide on how to do it:

1. When you're in the garden centre next remember to choose plants that require similar growing conditions. If you're growing multiple plants in a bottle terrarium, it's important to select species that have similar requirements for light, moisture, and soil type. Be sure to check the tags before buying for guidance. It will simply be easier if they all have the same needs.

2. Choose a large, clear glass bottle or jar for your plants. Look for a glass bottle or jar that's large enough to accommodate the type and number of plants you want to grow, it's also a lot easier if you can fit your hand in. The glass should be clear and colourless to allow in light and let you see the plants easily.

* Opt for an open bottle if your plants need less water. For succulents and other plants that grow in arid environments, an open bottle, jar, or fishbowl-style container is a better option. This will allow water to evaporate more quickly so that your plants don't get waterlogged.

3. Add 2 inches (5.1 cm) of pebbles to the bottom of the bottle. You'll need to provide good drainage so that your plants don't become waterlogged, which can lead to root rot and yellowing leaves.

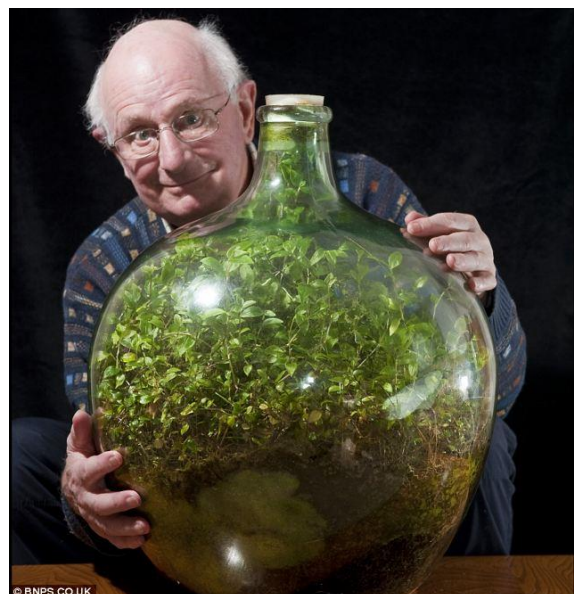
4. Put in a layer of potting soil until the bottle is 1/3 full. Pour the soil into the bottle on top of the pebbles. Break up any lumps with your hands so that the soil is loose and airy.

5. Place your bottle in a well-lit area out of direct sunlight.

6. Remember to water your plants when the soil becomes dry. Check the soil in your bottle garden occasionally to make sure it doesn't dry out completely. Mist the plants or add more water as needed. Most terrarium plants do best if their soil is always slightly moist.

7. You can prune your plants if they start to get too big.

That's it, you're good to grow! Once established terrariums can live for generations, one of the oldest known bottle gardens belongs to Mr Latimer who has been watching his mini garden thrive for 60 years!



Still going strong: Pensioner David Latimer from Cranleigh, Surrey, with his bottle garden that was first planted 60 years ago and has not been watered since 1972 - yet continues to thrive in its sealed environment. Happy Growing!