

Adding two shorter plants of contrasting colors and textures around the base of the palm filled in the vase space and created more interest. This is the same layering technique used in full-sized garden design, only the layers of a full-sized garden are trees (tallest), shrubs and large perennials (middle layer), and annual flowers, groundcovers, small perennials, and bulbs (shortest layer).

Use a long-handled spoon to add soil around the plants so that their roots are entirely covered.



5. Add decorative moss around the plants using the terrarium tweezers. Once all of the plants are planted, it's hard to reach all the way into the bottom of the vase. Water the container until you can just see water trickling in between the pebbles at the bottom of the vase.

During the "Great Terrarium Frenzy," I planted this vase with a different type of palm tree. The plant was about 4 inches taller than the container, so when planted, stuck out of the top of the container at least 8 inches, creating a dramatic effect.

Care and Maintenance

This terrarium will dry out faster than a fully enclosed terrarium but more slowly than a regular houseplant. You can see, through the glass, when the soil has started to dry out. It will be lighter in color. That's when it's time to water.

Quick Canning Jar Terrarium



Ideal for a desktop or a child's nightstand, this canning jar terrarium is easy to make and to care for. It's a great school project.

Materials

Rinsed pea gravel
Activated filter carbon
Sterile potting soil
Selaginella plant
Plastic wrap
Wide-mouth canning jar and lid
Animal figurine

Quick Canning Jar Terrarium Step-by-Step

1. Layer pea gravel in the bottom, activated filter carbon on top, and 1 inch of potting soil over that.
2. Use the terrarium tweezers (or a dinner fork) to plant the *Selaginella*. Make sure its roots are in the soil.
3. Water the terrarium until you can see water running into the pebbles.
4. Place the animal figurine next to the side of the jar.
5. Tear off a sheet of plastic wrap and cover the jar with it.
6. Place the lid ring on the jar and screw it down.
7. Use sharp scissors to cut the plastic wrap so that the edges aren't visible under the lid.

(Using plastic wrap instead of its metal lid allows more light to reach the plant and a better view of the plant.)