Make Your Own Garden in a Dish and Terrarium
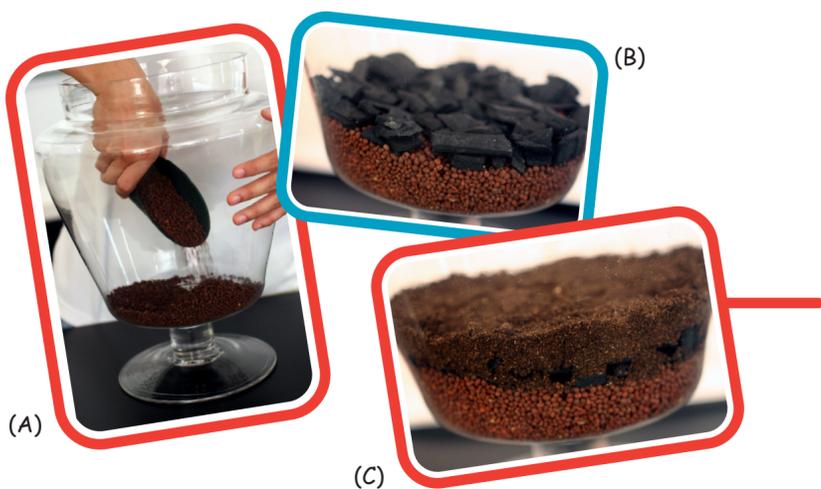
NATIONAL PARKS | LET'S MAKE SINGAPORE OUR GARDEN

A **Garden in a Dish,** as its name implies, is made up of a combination of plants arranged aesthetically in a container the size of a dish. **Terrariums** are enclosed glass container gardens, with carefully selected plants. When properly set up, the microclimate within the terrarium is in equilibrium and the plants are self-sustaining.

Step 1:

Select a suitable container and a combination of suitable plants. For the dish garden, the container could be anything from a large flower pot to a lunch box. Clean and dry the container.

Tools and suitable containers for container gardens and terrariums

Step 2:

Place a layer of washed gravels chips or expanded pellets at the bottom of the container. Next, add a layer of charcoal chips and finally, a layer of potting mix. For the dish garden, simply pour in a layer of potting mix if your container has no holes. You may also skip the gravel chips and charcoal chips.

Step 3:

Remove plants from pot by gently squeezing the sides of the pot. Turn the pot over to take out the plants. Arrange them in the container according to your preferred layout and cover with potting mix.

Step 4:

Decorate your mini dish garden or terrarium with decorative ornaments and water your plants generously by misting the potting mix with 30 – 40 squirts.

For the terrarium, you may want to rinse the sides of the container using a sprayer. Ensure that the bottom of your terrarium is not over-saturated with water. A good guide would be to monitor the gravel layer. Stop watering when this layer is half-filled with water.

Step 5:

Close the container of the terrarium and place it under adequate filtered light but away from direct sunlight. A good location would be near a window sill or a bright balcony.

Monitor the condensation level to allow the ecosystem to achieve equilibrium. The ecosystem is now self-sustaining.

Suitable plants you can use:

Elatostema repens

Cryptanthus

Selaginella species

Calathea species

Asplenium

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