

Dish Gardening

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest will inform the viewer on how to prepare a dish garden in different occasion.

Grade Level: College / Adult

Curriculum: Art / Music

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Introduction

A dish garden is an arrangement of plants placed inside dishware. Unlike plant pots, dishes don't have drainage holes. The main difference between a potted floral arrangement in a gardening pot and a dish garden is that actual dishware is used. The dishware used in dish gardens may be everyday items such as cereal bowls or coffee mugs or they may be ornamental pieces. Dish Gardening is the art of planting small ornamental in pots, shallow vases or dishes. Or it is in itself a miniature garden which you can carry them to any part of your home.

Tasks

I prepared some task to enhance your designing capability

1. Collect some items which for you can give art or can be used in designing like for example white sand, stones, marbles, and etc...
2. Gather beautiful and attractive flowers or plants for example shrub, bonsai, flowering plants, orchids, etc...
3. Prepare a pot, glass vase, cans or anything which you can use in making your dish garden.
4. Think of a particular occasion or place on where you're going to put the said dish garden.
5. Lastly make your own design of dish garden.

***MAKE IT IN YOUR OWN WAY (UNIQUE) ***

***Remember: Your way of designing reflects your personality. ***

****How to Design a Dish Garden****Dish garden with ornaments Add a dish garden to your indoor décor to create a miniature landscape in your home. Dish gardens use a variety of indoor plants placed closely together within a closed container. Most dish gardens only include foliage plants, some enthusiasts put a blooming violet in the container to add color. Florists sell dish gardens as gifts or decorative accents, but you can create your own for a fraction of the cost. Instructions Things You'll Need • Ceramic dish or plastic lined basket Potting soil Small container house plants (varying heights and foliage) Pea gravel Plastic drainage tray 1. Choose indoor houseplants from a garden center that can withstand the light conditions in the preferred location of your home. Designing a dish garden is based on personal preference. The only component parts of a dish garden include the dish and tightly spaced plantings within the confined container. 2 Choose a container for your dish garden. Examine the bottom of the container to check for drainage holes. Punch holes in the bottom of the dish if possible and use a plastic plant tray to protect furniture. Ceramic containers require a drainage field under the soil to prevent over-watering. 3 Place a 1- to 2-inch layer of pea gravel on the bottom of your dish. It won't harm your plants even if you have drainage holes in your container. 4 Water the small houseplant containers before planting. This will loosen the soil around the plants to make removal from the plastic pots easier. 5 Pour potting soil into the container until half full. Squeeze the plastic plant pots to loosen the roots and gently lift them plants out by grasping at the base of the stem. 6 Position the plants inside the dish garden. Traditional dish gardens feature taller plants such as spikes in the rear portion of the dish with smaller plants and vines toward the front. Position the loose plants. Ivy and vines look best around the edges because these plants tend to expand and trail. Ferns and mosses add a vibrant green contrast when paired with variegated leaf plants. Crowd the plants together to create a continuous garden of green foliage. 7 Dig small holes in the potting soil and plant each plant. Make sure to completely cover the roots, adding more potting soil and pressing on the soil to remove air pockets. Fill the dish garden to just below the rim of the container. 8 Add unique features to the dish garden by using any remaining pea gravel to cover the visible soil. You can add larger accent rocks for character or a whimsical small statue. 9 Water the dish garden until the soil is damp. Because placement is so tight, carefully monitor how often you water. Misting the plants with a sprayer every other day will help prevent over-watering, but you'll still need to water the dish garden occasionally.

****How to Create and Care for Dish Gardens****

Dish
Gardening Made Easy

While expensive gifts are nice to give and to receive, why not add a little something extra this year to let someone special that they are extra special? Probably the most valuable commodity that anyone has these days is time. Doesn't it therefore follow, that possibly the best gift of all would be a little bit of your time? Two or three hours is all that would be needed, to take a quick trip to the garden shop, pick up your materials, return home and put together a simple dish garden.

The majority of this time may well be spent on choosing just the right container, accents, and plants, because the actual construction of dish garden is really quite simple and quick.

Choosing a Dish Garden Planter

Your dish garden should be planted in an open, shallow container. The size is only relevant to the extent of how many (or few) plants it will be able to support. It is helpful if there are drainage holes in the container, but not necessary if there is sufficient depth to facilitate adding a gravel layer for drainage. Most garden centers will have a good variety of ceramic dishes made just for this purpose. Personally, I prefer dishes with a bit more personality than the standard, round bowl "look". Dish Garden Planters and Accents

A few minutes wandering down the aisles of a second hand store, or a "dollar store" (maybe even out in your own garage) will probably reveal the perfect base for your project. Often you will find products which are designed for other uses, but are perfect as a dish garden. You will be surprised at what you may find. As you

look for the perfect planter, keep an eye opened for miniature garden accents that may be appropriate.

- * Among other things, I once discovered a ten inch wheelbarrow with a set of miniature tools. Although it was made to be an ornament on its own, this was a perfect planter for the gardener in the house.
- * Any basket, old or new, can be used by simply placing a non-draining container inside of it.
- * For the fisherman... an old fishing creel can be easily lined with plastic and planted, or used to simply cover your actual planting container.
- * Dollar stores always seem to have a few mini-planters depicting a deer, a duck, a cow or a truck. Although they are usually only suited for a single small plant (which usually outgrows it quickly,) they are sure to bring an instant smile...
- * Small logs can be hollowed out... A great home for a small fern forest.
- * Adobe bowls look great as "cactus scapes", when filled with small succulent plants.
- * A rusted milk can, old boot, even an old pet dish can be given a new use in life.
- * The ultimate dish garden, of course is a terrarium, which is easily made from old aquariums or jars.

Choosing Appropriate Dish Gardening Plants

Unfortunately, because dish gardens typically have limited root space, the plants will tend to outgrow their home rather quickly. For this reason, it is a good idea to choose slow growing plants to prevent having to replace them too often. Choose plants which have the same general lighting and water requirements as your other choices.

Setting Up and Planting Your Dish Garden

Adequate drainage is probably the most important provision to ensure the success of your dish garden.

The best method of draining the excess water from the soil, is through drainage holes in the bottom of the planter. The hole(s) should be covered with a piece of broken pottery or a screen patch, to prevent the soil from washing out. This type of planter will require placing a water tight tray under the garden, to protect the table or other surfaces from water damage. In situations where there is no external drainage, you will have to cover the bottom of the container with a minimum of a one to two inch layer of pea gravel or coarse charcoal. The gravel should then be covered with a piece of nylon stocking or window screen to keep the soil from sifting down into the gravel, rendering it useless for drainage.

Use a good commercial potting soil, to which you have added coarse sand or perlite to aid in the drainage. Add a sufficient layer of this soil mix, so that when you set the new plants in place, their soil level will be about 1/2 inch below the rim of the planter.

Landscaping your Dish Garden

If the planter is sufficiently large, you may create different levels of terrain within your garden. Firm this soil layer lightly. Without removing the plants from their pots, try different planting arrangements. Don't forget to consider any garden "accents" which you plan to use, during this planning stage.

Arrange the plants according to how the dish garden is most likely to be viewed. As a centerpiece, for example, you would want the tallest plant in the center, so that the display would be viewable from all angles. If the garden will only be seen from one vantage point, however, you would want the tallest plants in the rear. Don't over-plant your garden for the sake of having it look immediately full. By adding fewer plants, you will have a healthier garden which will fill in quickly, and last much longer.

Adding Plants to Your Dish Garden
 Make sure that the plants are thoroughly watered before proceeding!

Once you have your master plan worked out, you are ready to plant and landscape your dish garden. The plants can be easily removed from their pots, with their entire root structure unscathed, and ready for planting.

Support the plant by placing your fingers over the soil, forming a 'V' around, but not touching the stem of the plant. Turn the entire plant over, and give the pot a light rap with a screwdriver handle. This should dislodge the root ball, allowing the pot to be easily lifted off.

Normally, at this point of transplanting any potted plant, you would want to lightly loosen the outer roots of the ball. Because a slow growth rate is desired in most dish gardens, it is better to just leave the roots alone in this case. Remove the pots from two or three of your plants at a time, beginning with the tallest plants first. Set these plants into position, making any final adjustments as to where they will "face". Fill in around each plant with fresh planting mix, and then continue with this process until all of the plants are in place. Add more soil as needed to fill in areas. Pack the soil gently, and water it lightly.

You can top the soil with a mulch of fine bark or small gravel. Accents like small twigs and stones can be used to hide any bare plant stems, or to highlight an area of the garden. Any other ornaments you choose to add to your landscape, will add to the artistry, the character, and the personal touch...

Your dish garden should be kept in a spot where it will receive the correct amount of light for the chosen plants. "Full sun" type dish gardens should be gradually adjusted to their permanent window area to prevent sun burn. Place them in bright, indirect light first. Each day, for a week, move them closer, until they are in the "full sun" spot.

Watering and Caring for Your Dish Garden

Allow the soil in your dish garden to become nearly dry, before you add a small amount of water again (start with a cup or so...). Never allow the soil to become too dry, or too soggy. Experience will quickly teach you how much, and how often to water.

Generally you will not have to fertilize your dish garden. The plants will seldom be in place long enough to deplete the nutrients from their soil, before they are moved on to a bigger planter. Of course, if the plants have been in the same soil for too long you can feed them, but use a VERY dilute 1/4 strength liquid house plant food.

With a little care, your dish garden will become an ornament for your home, and a living memory.

Evaluation

The user or the designer will be evaluated according to the criteria below.

Category and Score	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	Score
Uniqueness	A common design	Similarity in some concepts	Beautiful -Showing own design	Very good.Unique.Beautiful.	30
Creativity	Does not show creativeness.	Showing creativeness in few aspects.	Showing creativity in some aspects.	Exposing full talent of creating a design.	20

Category and Score	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	Score
Materials used	Does not follow the proper materials to be used in dish gardening.	Some of the materials are not properly used.	Used the materials properly.	Prepare all the materials needed and are used properly.	25
Design organization	Does not organize the design or the proper position of the plants and design properly.	Fair design but does not follow the proper organization of design.	Nice job. Keep up the good work. Practice more for the perfection.	Excellent.nice job.Have a very good and organize design. The plants are properly organize in its proper position or place.	25
				Total Score	100%

Conclusion

After this the viewer will know and appreciate dish gardening and will consider this as a hobby or a profitable pastime. Designing a dish garden is relaxing based on my own experience.

Dish gardening can be consider as an art. In which art reflects someone's personality. Through arts you can express your ideas and feelings. Though an art is broad, but still it depends upon your thoughts and opinions or ways on how to show what is an art for you.