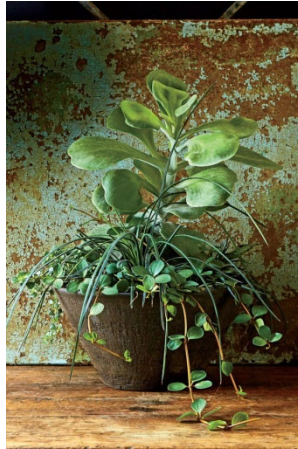


Container Gardening



Why Create A Container Garden?

- allows you to create special gardens to fit any situation
- allows you to growing plants in places that you thought were impossible
- allows you to provide instant color anywhere and at anytime.
- allows you to grow special plants that need more attention to soil and water
- Allows you to highlight a plant's unique color, texture and form



Choosing the Right Container

- Anything that holds soil and has drainage holes will work
- Consider eye-appeal, convenience, cost
- Must provide adequate root space – including growth



Container Ideas:

- **Cast cement**
- **Clay (terra cotta pots, chimney tiles or drain tiles)**
- **Hypertufa (a light weight artificial stone, easy to make-it-yourself)**
- **Metal**
- **Molded plastic, resin or fiberglass**
- **Nylon stockings**
- **Plastic bags**
- **Peat pots**
- **Pottery (glazed or unglazed)**
- **Stoneware**
- **Wood (boxes, baskets, hollowed stumps, tree bark)**
- **Wire (or metal strap) hayrack style planters lined with moss, wood fiber, coco fiber or plastic to hold soil**
- **Recycled materials (like old boots, shoes, washtubs, furniture, milk crates, baskets, wagons, carts, and toys)**



Questions to Ask When Choosing a Container

- Is the material porous?
- Will the container be heavy and difficult to move?
- Will it hang in the air?
- Will the materials, size or color result in fluctuating soil temperatures?
- Will the material rot over time?
- How much will it cost?



Selecting the Proper Soil Mix

Regular garden soil is great for the ground but not for pots

Container soil needs to be:

- **Well aerated**
- **Drain well**
- **Able to retain moisture**



Amending Garden Soil to Work in Containers

- one part garden soil
- one part peat moss
- one part perlite or coarse builders sand



Another Homemade Soil Alternative

Mel's Mix

- **1/3 vermiculite**
- **1/3 peat moss**
- **1/3 compost (from as many sources as possible)**



A Practical Container Planting Method



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSbh03sSphU>



Collect Your Plants



Collect Other Necessary Items



Submerge Each Plant



Separate the Plant from the Pot



Place the Pots into the Final Pot



Ready the Final Pot for Planting



Create the Planting Holes



Insert Plants into Holes



Done! Planted!



Other Factors to Consider!

- **Light**
- **Temperature**
- **Airflow**



Food is Important Too!

Use diluted plant food. Because water drains out more quickly, so will the fertilizer. You may fertilize your container garden with either a slow-release fertilizer or a water-soluble, quick release fertilizer such as 20-20-20.



Choosing The Right Plants

Shhhh.....the Secret is.....

There is no “wrong” plant



Picking Good Plant Combinations

A little trick...

Plant:

a Thriller - something bright (Coleus, geranium)

a Spiller - a trailing plant (Petunias, creeping zinnias)

a Filler - something to fill in space (Salvias, verbenas)



**Pansies, Violas, Panolas,
Grass & Ivy**



Winterizing Your Plants Outside

In winter, container plants face several challenges. They may dry out or freeze. Freezing can harm both plants and containers. Most plants go into dormancy in colder months as well. The procedure varies by the severity of the winters. Annuals in containers can be discarded at the end of the season. In general, for plants that you want to keep over the winter:

- Give the plants a final watering.
- Cut back perennials.
- Wrap the container in an insulating material. Burlap, old blankets, even bubble wrap can work. Containers can also be insulated with mulch or leaves, anything to protect the plant and container itself from damage.
- Instead of the above, if you have space, move containers into a sheltered area such as a garage or basement.



Interesting and Unusual Container Gardens



Living Walls



Living Walls



Living Walls



Water Gardens



Check the water level in the pond pot daily, filling it when necessary. In the fall, when temperatures go down to 55 degrees, bring your water garden indoors for the winter.



Suggested Plants

Green taro (*Plumbae taro*) Bog plant grows in water up to 6" deep. Leaves and stems are evergreen in mild climates. Grows 3 to 5 feet tall. Tolerates shade or filtered morning sun. Zones 9 to 11.

Ribbon grass/variegated (*Phalaris arundinacea*) Grass plant with white horizontal stripes. Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and can tolerate drought. Grows in sun to part shade. Zones 4 to 11.

Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon' Dramatic foliage of red, cream, pink and green. Perennial bog plant that grows to 12 inches. Enjoys part shade. Zones 5 to 11.

Creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) Enjoys shallow water conditions and tolerates bright indirect light or partial shade. Zones 4 to 10.

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) Floating leaf aquatic with interesting leaf forms. Grows in sun to part shade. Zones 9 to 11.

Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) Generally grows at the edges of water features. Float cuttings on top of the water or set potted water plant in the water garden. Grows 3 to 6 inches tall; can be placed in full sun or shade; aggressive. Zones 6 to 11.



Glass Containers

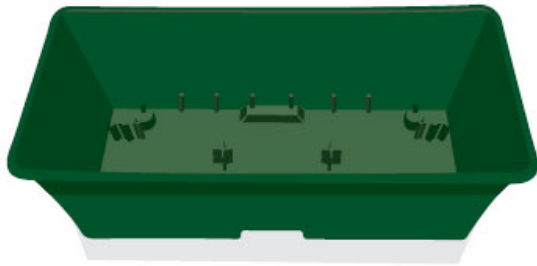


Earth Boxes

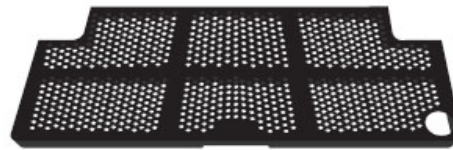


Earth Boxes

EarthBox



Aeration Screen



Fill Tube



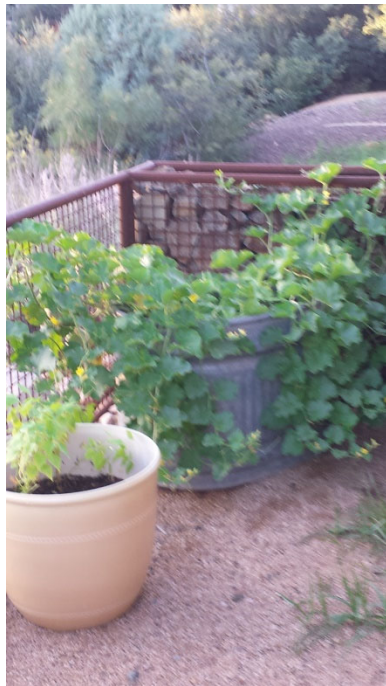
Mulch Covers



My Real Life Examples



My Real Life Examples



Making Your Own Wicking System Planter



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoP4JJQggv4>



Passive Hydronponics – Self Wicking



CAN You Imagine Anything Prettier?



A Great Place to Hang Your Hat



The Plants are Definitely in Charge!



A Purse Ready for Every Outing



Something Old, Something New



In the End

A good-looking, well-maintained, long-lasting container garden, doesn't just happen.

It takes WORK! And the results are well worth it and something you will enjoy and be proud of!



QUESTIONS?



The Soil Less Side of Gardening



Indoor Growing Systems

- **Traditional Container - Soil**
- **Hydroponic**
- **Aeroponic**
- **Aquaponic**



Growing mediums include:

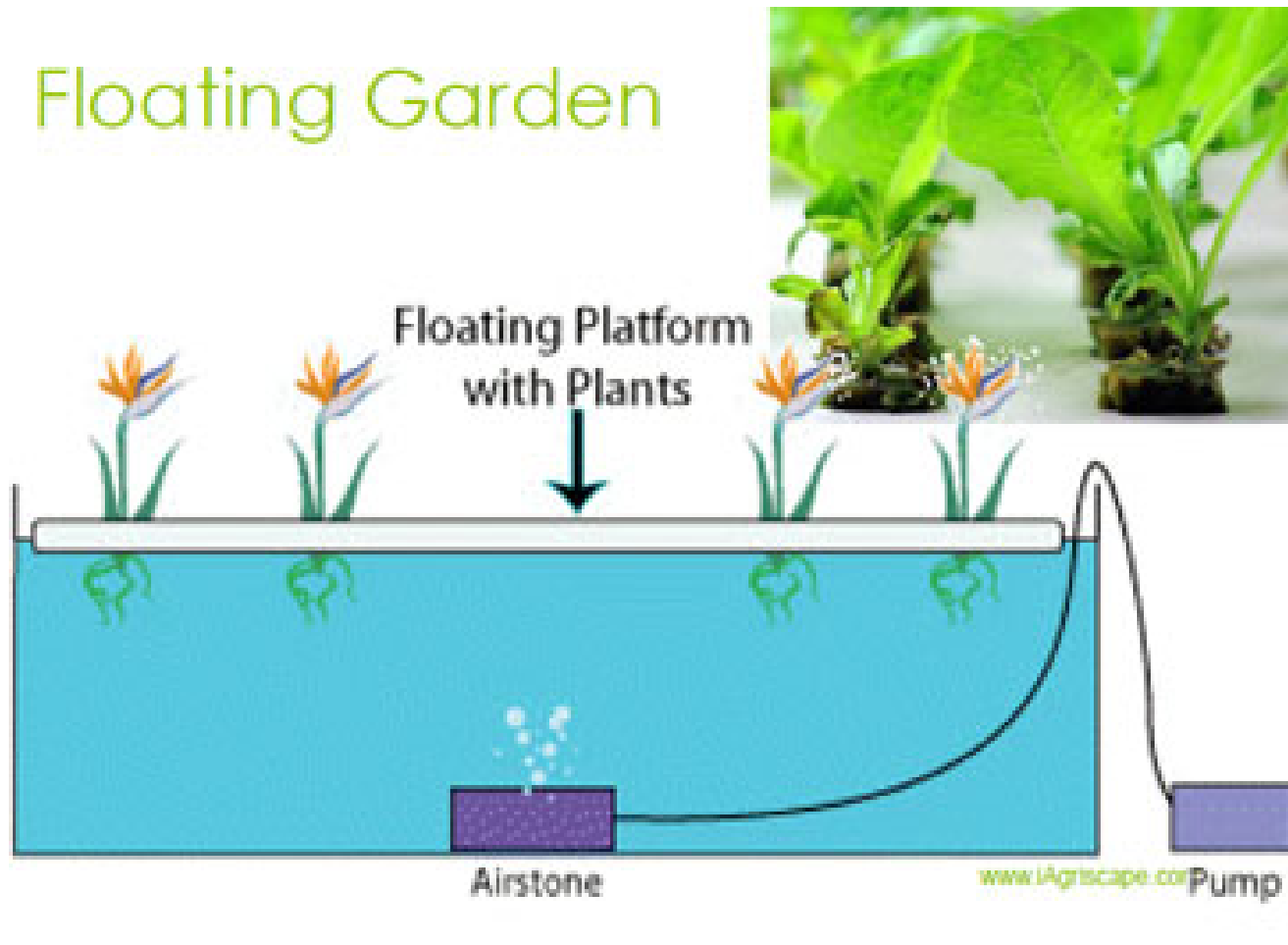
- **Coconut Coir**
- **LECA (Hydroton or clay balls)**
- **Perlite**
- **Rockwool**
- **Gravel**



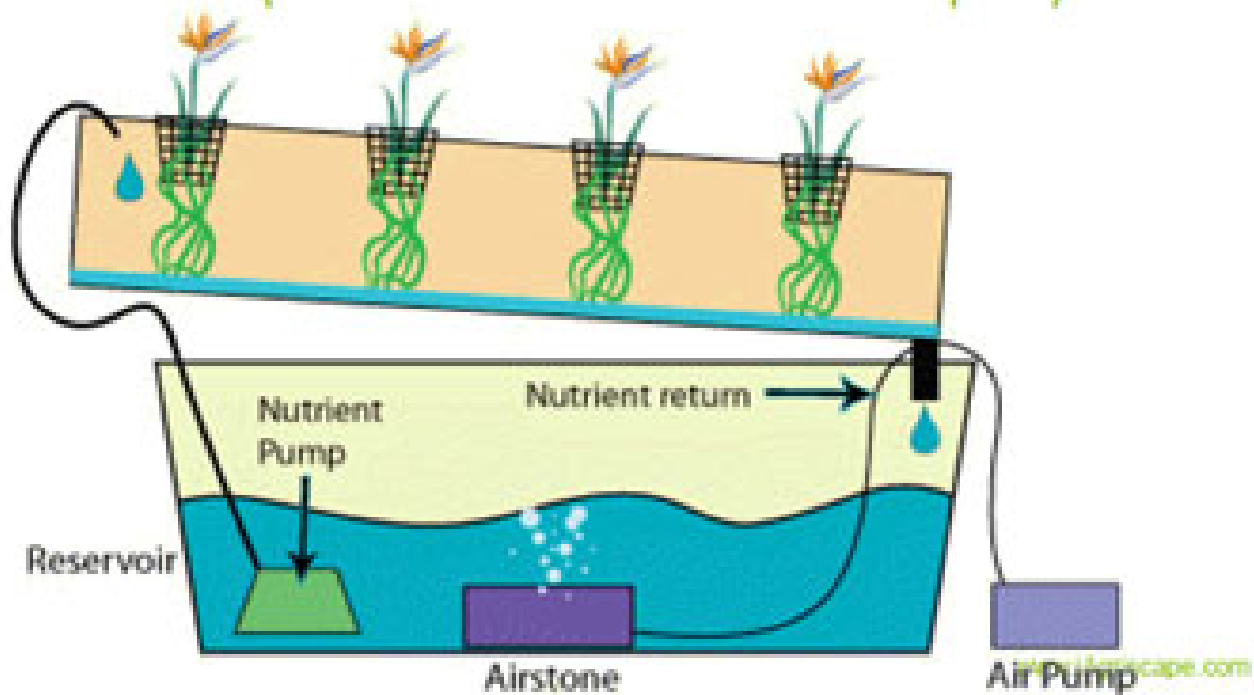
Indoor Growing Systems

- **Hydroponic – Plants cultivated in a nutrient solution rather than soil**
 - **Floating – plants suspended in water**
 - **NFT (Nutrient Film Technique) – shallow stream of nutrients continually flowing over root system**
- **Aeroponic – Growing plants in the air with the use of a nutrient solution misting system**
- **Aquaponic – The marriage of aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics**

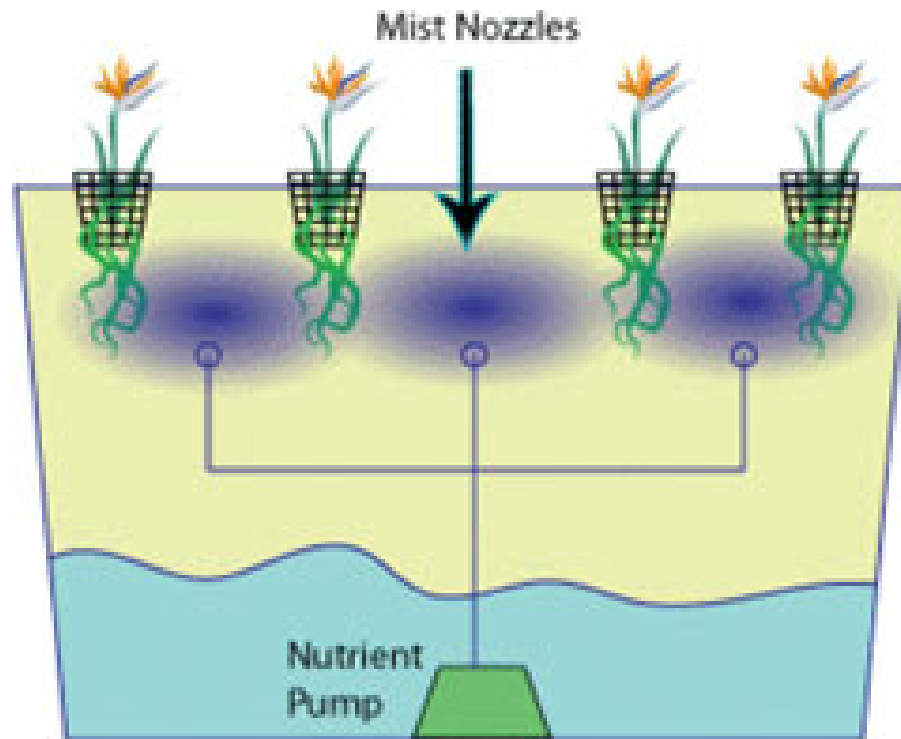
Floating Garden



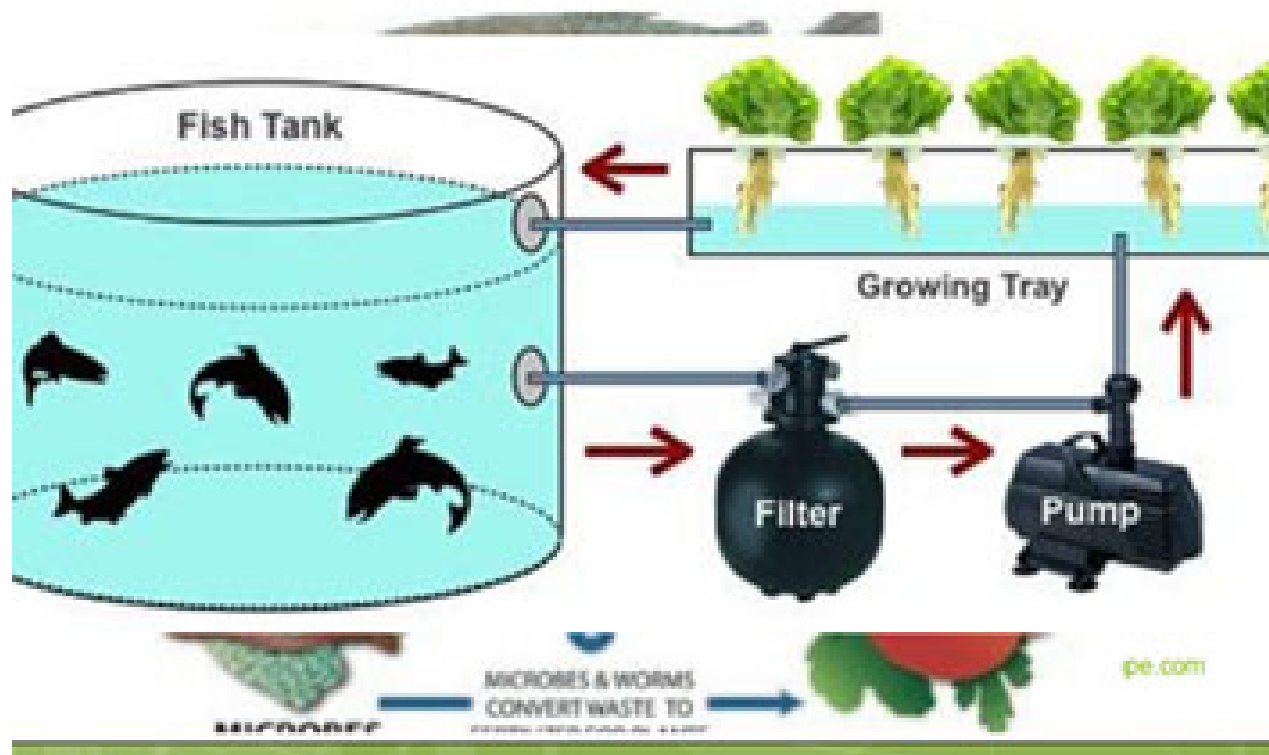
NFT System (Nutrient Film Technique)



Aeroponics



Aquaponics





Some Advantages to Indoor Systems

- **When set up correctly, a good indoor growing system can be much more economical and efficient than the traditional soil garden**
- **Fruits and vegetables grown indoors have been shown to contain more vitamins and often taste better than traditional soil grown produce.**
- **Indoor gardening allows you to grow year-round, especially used for those in extreme climates.**
- **Crops can be rotated in any way you choose**
- **Larger numbers of plants can be grown in small spaces because less space is required between plants.**
- **Most indoor growing systems can be adapted to fit in oddly shaped areas**
- **Time spent weeding and tilling soil is eliminated.**

What Edibles Can Be Grown Indoors

- **Vegetables**
- **Herbs**
- **Fruits**
- **Flowers**



Vegetables

- **Almost any vegetable that isn't a root vegetable.**
- **Very system dependent**
- **Temperature in your home matters**



Successful vegies include:

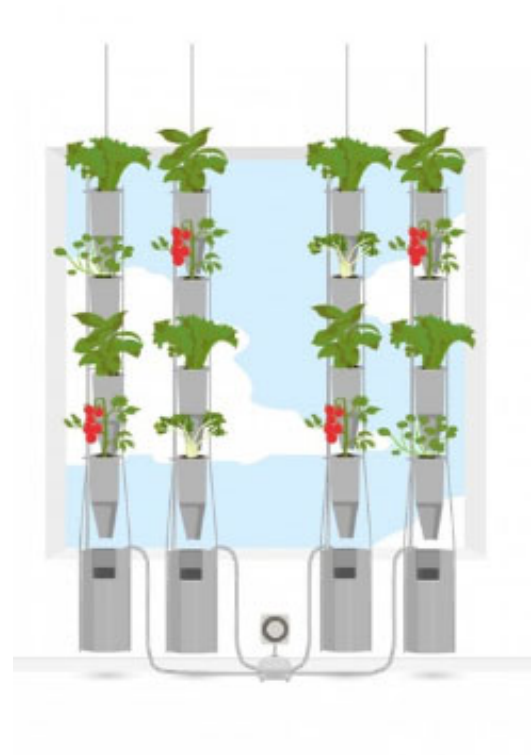
- **Tomatoes**
- **Peppers**
- **Cucumbers**
- **Greens: Lettuce, Spinach, Kale, Arugula, etc**
- **Wheat grass and micro greens**
- **Herbs**
- **Malabar Spinach**



Citrus in the High Country



Window Farming



www.windowfarming.org



Table Top Systems



www.aerogarden.com



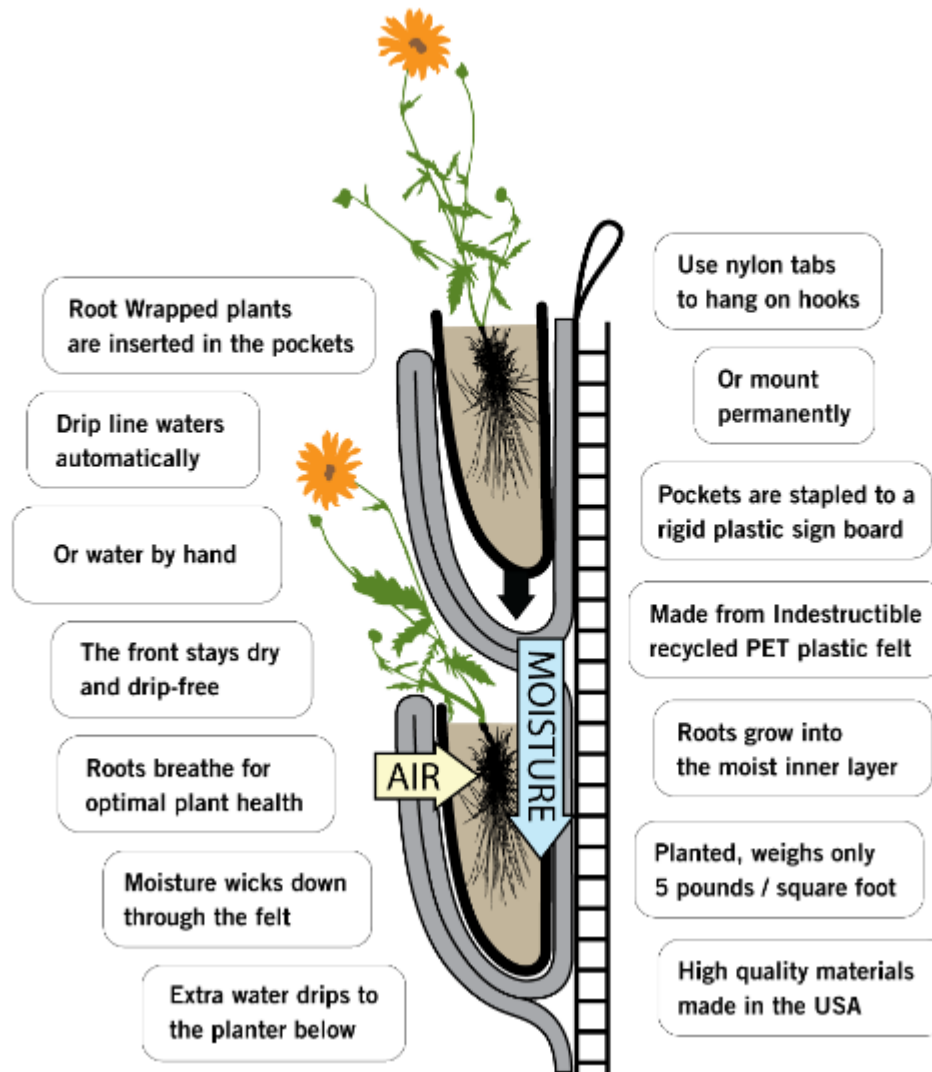
Omega Gardens



www.omegagarden.com







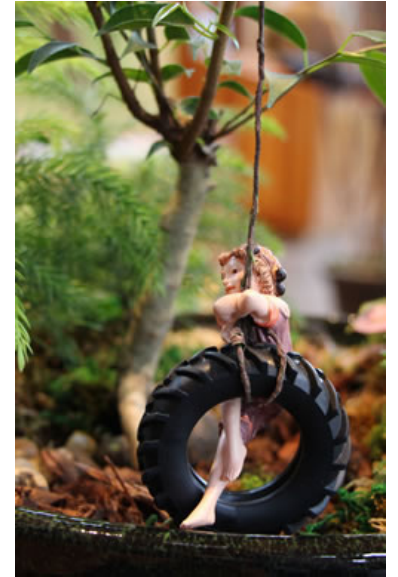
QUESTIONS?



All

About

Fairy Gardens



Tricia Michelson, Master Gardener



So....just what is a Fairy Garden?

*“Lettuce define our terms”
- Kermit the Frog*



So....just what is a Fairy Garden?

Is it a Miniature Garden?



Definition: A miniature garden is the perfect blend of tiny trees, plants, patios, paths, hardscaping and garden accessories that are in scale with one another to create a lasting, living garden scene or vignette.



But NO! It's not

Fairy garden

unless . . .



You also have FAIRIES!



So...just what is a Fairy Garden?

“A fairy garden is a small scene that uses at least one living plant along with items crafted from nature to create a whimsical home for pixie creatures”



So....just what is a Fairy Garden?

“Fairy gardening is simply gardening in the miniature...it’s sort of like having a doll house but the ‘house’ is actually a miniature garden in a container or a small area of your garden” ...of course it needs a fairy to be complete!



So....just what is a Fairy Garden?

“A fairy garden appeals to the whimsical side in gardeners. These miniature little gardens are for people who believe that ‘wee little folks’ live somewhere nearby and are just waiting for the right place in the yard to call home.”



The Bottomline....

The **CRITICAL** components of a fairy garden are:

1. a miniature garden
2. a fairy

Optional but recommended is a fairy home or hideout



Does Fairy Gardening Have a History?



Think

miniature . . .

Does Fairy Gardening Have a History?

- Chinese art form – Penjing or Penzai – as early as 600 AD



Does Fairy Gardening Have a History?

- “Officially” started in the America when introduced in the Japanese Pavilion at the Chicago World’s Fair (1893)
- Cicely Mary Barker’s book Flower Fairies brought a resurgence of interest in the 1920’s
- British garden enthusiast, Anne Ashbury, ‘Miniature Gardens’ 1954 practical guide to design, construction, maintenance of miniature gardens



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Wooly thyme (Thymus Lanuginosus):



A favorite ground cover in fairy gardens that spreads quickly. This gorgeous and hardy ground cover is ideal for outdoor gardens and fairly bunny proof. Wooly thyme ground cover is also very heat and drought resistant



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Ornamental strawberry (Rosaceae)



This miniature ground cover is heat tolerant and looks great all year long! White blossoms in spring and tiny delicate strawberries in the summer. Be sure to expect our feathered friends to feast on the tiny strawberries.



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Irish moss (Sagina suulata):



This is the perfect miniature ground cover for any hills or miniature mountains in your fairy garden. During Spring and Summer you can enjoy delicate tiny white flowers. While beautiful, this miniature ground cover does not flourish in extreme heat.



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Blue Star Creeper (Isomtoma):



This miniature ground cover grows a bit taller, up to six inches but boasts dazzling blue flowers perfect for fairies.



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Baby tears (Soleirolia):



This miniature ground cover looks decadently lush and green, giving your miniature fairy garden an elfin forest look. This miniature ground cover needs plenty of water and shade during the summer months.



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Cranesbill (Erodium reichardi) "Dark Eyes"



A hardy little plant with delicate long blooming small pink and purple flowers. Absolutely beautiful!



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Brass Buttons (Leptinella squalida) "Platts Black"



This is a really fun miniature ground cover that resembles miniature ferns. This miniature garden ground cover would make a great forest floor for a wooded fairy garden. Complete with tiny yellow button flowers when blooming.



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Succulents



Not to be confused with cacti! Nearly all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti! Often known as “fat plants”, they are typically fleshy. They store water in their leaves and stems allowing them to thrive on limited watering



Favorite Plants for Fairy Gardens

Tillandsia (a genus in the family of Bromeliads)



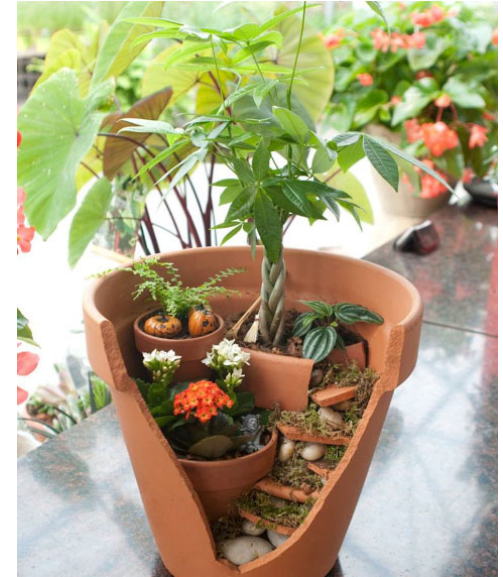
Commonly known as “Airplants”. There are over 730 plants in this genus. They live without soil as they have no roots. Water and nutrients are absorbed through the leaves.



The Perfect Fairy Garden



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Cracked Pots



Building a “Cracked Pot” Garden



As easy as

1 ... 2 ... 3

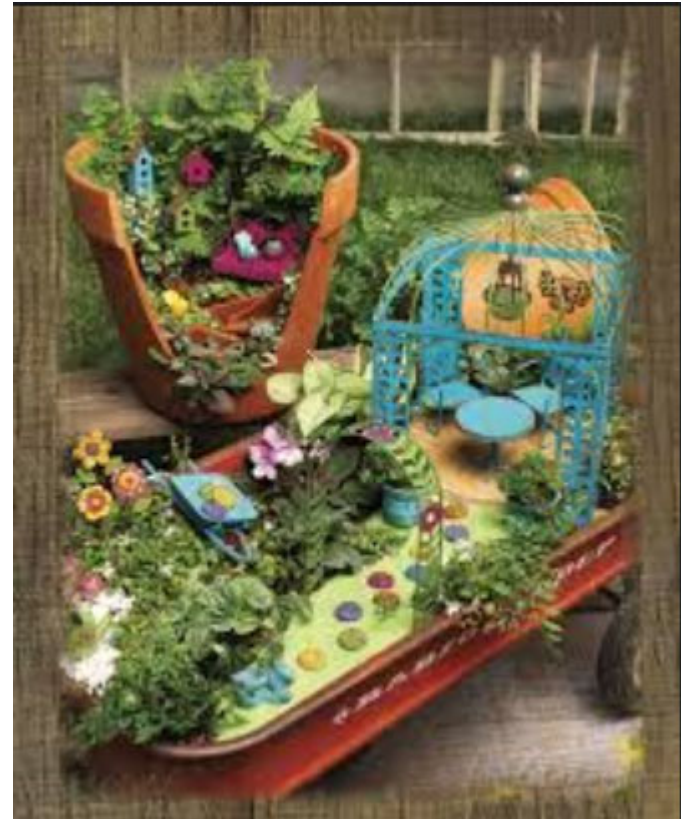
The Perfect Fairy Garden



Tea Cups



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Recycled Items



The Perfect Fairy Garden



More Recycled Items



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Outdoor Areas



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Outdoor Areas



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Willow Sphere



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Willow Sphere



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Glass Globes



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Ridiculously Tiny



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Utterly Bizarre!



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Seasonal



The Perfect Fairy Garden



Community Focused



The Perfect Fairy Garden

- There is no “right” or “wrong”
- Let your personality shine through
- Create it for enjoyment – yours or someone else!
- Anything is possible – just try it!



QUESTIONS?

