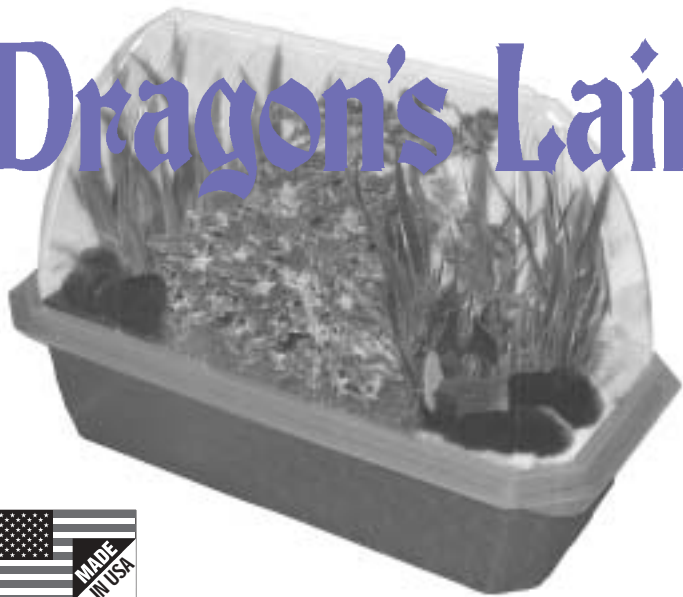


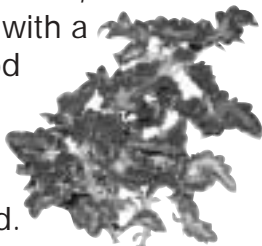
Dragon's Lair™



Planting and Identifying your Plants

Create a dark and remote lair for your mythical fire-breathing dragon where Dragon Trees sprout from white dragon's eggs to form sword-like leaves. If you cut them, they will "bleed." In addition to two spectacular plants named

after dragons (including one of the only black-leaved plants in the world, Black Dragon Coleus), this kit comes with a pet dragon, lava rock, and blood rock. Your lair will sprout in weeks and last for years. Complete growing instructions and care information is included.



Dragons symbolize dignity, authority, and auspiciousness. Legends of dragons appear in writings of the ancient Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, and Babylonians. Stories of dragons also appear in the literature of the English, Irish, Norse, Scandinavians, and Germans. Images of dragons have been seen on many art objects around the world throughout the ages. The dragon's likeness can be seen on Babylonian landmarks, Roman mosaics, royal robes, government seals, and shields. The dragon is very prominent in the Far East in countries such as Japan and China. In China, the dragon is traditionally regarded as a symbol of good fortune, and its likeness is on the national emblem of the Chinese Empire.

Contents

- One pack of Dragon Tree seeds; one pack of Black Dragon Coleus seeds
- Dragon
- Black and red lava rock
- Blood rock
- Planting greenhouse
- Planting mixture
- Instruction and information booklet

Planting Your Dragon's Lair

Note: Don't plant all the seeds at once. Plant what you need, and save the rest in case you need to replant; we include enough seeds to replant at least one time.

1. Massage the bag of soil to remove any clumps.
2. Cut open the bag and pour the soil into the greenhouse base.
3. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water, and let it absorb.
4. Mix water and planting mixture thoroughly with a spoon.
5. Add another $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water and smooth the surface.
6. To lay the fire paths, first press down firmly on the moist soil to make a depression, then fill with red gravel. Use lava rocks to form the cave for your dragon.
7. Place the Dragon where you would like.
8. Once the paths and lava rock are laid, you can plant the seed.
9. First place your Dragon Tree Seeds on the surface of the soil, and then push them down about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch and cover them.
10. Sprinkle the Black Dragon Coleus seeds on the surface of the soil. (They need light to germinate.)
11. Put the top on your planted greenhouse and place it in a windowsill or very near a window. An eastern or southern exposure is best. A western exposure is okay, but a northern exposure should be avoided.
12. Seeds will germinate in 1 to 6 weeks

Caring For Your Dragon's Lair

Watering

- If you overwater the terrarium, tip it gently to pour out the extra water, leave the top off, and place it in an area with a southern exposure until desired moisture level is reached.
- Your growing mixture is inert and contains no fertilizer. For maximum growth, fertilize your terrarium in the spring and summer with a water-soluble houseplant food or time-release pellets.

Location

- The best location for your terrarium is on a windowsill with a western or southern exposure. Be sure the window is not drafty.
- Your plants thrive in bright direct light and can live in bright indirect light.
- Both varieties of plants in the Dragon's Lair prefer to be in a warm room.
- Your plants will naturally reach toward the light, so rotate your greenhouse every week. If they are stretching too much, they may need more light.
- Do not place your terrarium close to a heating or cooling vent.
- Do not place your terrarium outside in the hot sun. The temperature inside the terrarium will rise to levels that are not safe for the plants. You may place it outdoors in the shade and when it is below 80 degrees (26° Celsius).
- A common problem with terrariums is that they are easily knocked over. Keep this in mind as you choose the location for your windowsill greenhouse.

Other Notes

- If mold forms, remove it with a twig or water the greenhouse with a 1:50 mix of hydrogen peroxide to water. This is about one capful per seven ounces of water.
- If you remove the top to allow the plants to grow larger, be sure to check the moisture level every few days.
- You can trim your plants back. It is important to cut them above a set of leaves and to water afterward, as pruning can be a shock to some plants.
- It is okay to let the plants bloom, but keep the plants from going dormant by trimming off any seed pods before seeds form.
- You can transplant your plants into other containers. Be sure to water first, and remove as big of a ball of soil around the roots as you can. To replant, make sure the soil in the new container is moist, place the soil ball into a pre-dug hole, and water thoroughly.

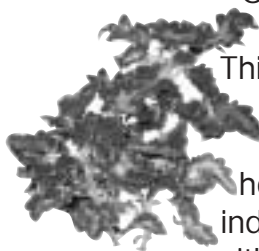
Interesting Information About Varieties of Plants in Your Garden

Dragon Tree (*Dracaena Draco*)



This is the ultimate Dragon Plant. It is sharp and strange. The seed is the size of a pea, ghostly white and covered in white powder. Once planted, it develops into an interesting angular foliage plant in a matter of months. It is natural for the lower leaves to fall off, and once mature, the plant will “bleed” a red sap if it’s cut. In its natural environment, these plants are huge. In home cultivation, they will reach a few feet and have red-edged leaves if they are kept in bright light.

Black Dragon Coleus



One of the few black plants, this is a must for any Dragon’s Lair. This plant is known for its ability to thrive in shady conditions indoors. It only needs 2 to 4 hours of light per day when grown indoors. Coleus likes to be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer once a month during the summer and spring. Pinch off the leaves regularly to make the plant bushier, and pinch flowers off before they bloom to prevent the plant from going to seed and dying. You can also take cuttings and root them in water. Your Black Dragon Coleus plants will show black and maroon coloring within a few weeks of sprouting.

Terrariums - General Information, History, How They Work

General Information

Terrariums, a favorite since the 1800s, continue to enjoy popularity today. Creating a terrarium is easy, fun, and inexpensive. Care is minimal and they can go for months without water under proper conditions. Also, a wide variety of plants can be grown that would normally fail in the dry, drafty environment of the average home. Avid gardeners celebrate terrariums as a way to extend their gardening season all year long.

History

Terrariums are miniature, self-contained ecosystems. Once created, these closed environments can go for months unattended without even the addition of water. The history of terrariums is rooted in the Victorian Age where they were used in parlors to house delicate and exotic plants.

The invention of the terrarium is credited to Dr. Nathaniel Ward, a London physician who discovered it by accident. While experimenting with cocoons in covered jars, he found tiny plants growing and thriving in the soil of the jars, even as plants in his backyard were dying from polluted air. Next, he successfully experimented with growing ferns in covered containers. The result: the first terrariums, then known as “Wardian cases.” These were large, enclosed containers used for growing delicate plants in the home or transporting plants over long distances. The terrariums used most often today are small, ornamental versions of the Wardian case.

How They Work

Terrariums are a self-contained environment. Once planted, they need nothing from the outside except a little indirect sunlight; they can even go without water for a long period of time. Moisture in the terrarium evaporates from the soil and plant leaves, condensing on the roof and walls. The condensed water drips down, remoistening the soil in a continual closed-loop process. The atmosphere inside is jungle-like, with high humidity, warm temperatures, and no drafts—perfect conditions for many of the tropic-native houseplants that are common today. As long as the terrarium’s top is sealed, this process can continue for months or even years.

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