

DINOSAUR PARK™



Planting and Identifying Your Plants



This prehistoric kit contains everything you need to create a Dinosaur Park right on your windowsill. Let your two pet dinosaurs roam among lush prehistoric ferns and two kinds of lava rock. You

can even make your own stream of lava with the included gravel. These ferns are easy to grow and will last for years. Complete growing instructions and care information is included.

Asparagus Ferns germinate readily from seed and make terrific houseplants. There are two main types of Asparagus Ferns: the upright, plume variety and the long, arching variety. Your mix includes both of these and the Tree Fern. Asparagus Ferns are not actually members of the fern family, but are part of the lily family.

Contents

- Pack of Asparagus Fern seeds (three varieties mixed together)
- Two dinosaurs
- Bag of red and black lava rock
- Bag of red gravel
- Planting greenhouse
- Planting mixture
- Instruction and information booklet

Planting Your Dinosaur Park

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. Soak seeds you are going to plant overnight in lukewarm water
2. Massage the bag of soil to remove any clumps.
3. Cut open the bag and pour the soil into the greenhouse base.
4. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water, and let it absorb.
5. Mix water and planting mixture thoroughly with a spoon.
6. Add another $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water and smooth the surface.
7. To lay stone or sand, first press down firmly on the moist soil to make a depression, then fill with the sand or gravel.
8. Place the black and red lava in a pile and put your dinosaurs around them.
9. Once your paths and boulders are laid, you can plant the seed.
10. Push seeds about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch into the mixture and bury them
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.
12. Seeds will germinate in 3 to 4 weeks

Caring For Your Dinosaur Park

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. You may fertilize your terrarium in the spring and summer with a water-soluble houseplant food or time-release pellets.
- Fertilize your ferns during the spring and summer for maximum growth
- Your ferns like to be kept moist and your terrarium will provide the perfect environment for their growth.

Location

- The best location for your terrarium is on a windowsill with an eastern or southern exposure. Be sure the window is not drafty.

- Your plants thrive in bright indirect light, but can tolerate a wide variety of light conditions
- 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.
- 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 them 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.

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 eco-systems. 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.

Visit www.dunecraft.com to locate retailers near you, learn more about your product, and explore our other great products. Questions? Email info@dunecraft.com or call 1-800-306-4168.



© DuneCraft, Inc. 2005
 All Rights Reserved
 PO Box 808
 Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022