

Container Water Gardens

- Find an interesting container that will hold water. To insure it is water tight, fill the container with water and let it sit for a few days to look for leaks. This will also give you an idea of how fast water evaporates out of the container. If you need to fill a drain hole or a leak, use aquarium sealant or plumbers epoxy.
- Add fresh water as needed to replace water absorbed or evaporated. A constant water level is important to plants and fish.
- A small pump can be used to create a pleasant sound. The movement of water is beneficial to your plants and fish by infusing the water with air to replenish oxygen supply.
- If you decide to add fish to your water garden, you will need to balance the plants need for sun with the fish's need for oxygen. The warmer the water is, the less oxygen present.
- To control water temperatures, try to place your water garden where it will get morning sun and shade during the heat of the afternoon. Water temperatures of 85° or higher may have fish at the surface gasping for oxygen.
- When feeding fish, be sure to give them no more than they will consume within five minutes. Overfeeding will foul the water and can be hazardous to your fish.
- When adding plants, you can remove any excess roots off floater plants. Cut off unwanted parts with sharp pruners.
- Use only a couple kinds of plants and do not over crowd the container. Too many plants will obscure the peaceful sound and movement of the water.
- In cold areas, over-winter plants or buy new ones each season.
- Clean debris out of the water garden regularly to keep the pump running smoothly.