

## Terrariums: Tiny and Terrific

### WHAT ARE TERRARIUMS/BOTTLE GARDENS?

- ❖ Humid, enclosed containers, providing a tropical atmosphere
- ❖ Plants must be suitable for moist conditions
- ❖ Once established, pest and maintenance free

### TYPES OF CONTAINERS

- ❖ Clear or lightly tinted—to allow proper light for plant growth
  - ❖ Large enough to hold proper amount of soil
  - ❖ Cover to capture moisture—creating an enclosed environment
  - ❖ Condensation on inside of glass is desirable
- BOTTLE GARDENS REQUIRE SAME GROWING REQUIREMENTS**

### CONTAINER EXAMPLES



### PLANT CHOICES

- ❖ Select plant with similar growing requirements
- ❖ Plants should
  - ❖ Enjoy medium to high humidity
  - ❖ Be slow growing
  - ❖ Have same light requirement
  - ❖ Be healthy and insect free
  - ❖ Varying heights, colors and textures

### PLANT SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ African violets
- ❖ Arrowhead vine, Nephthytis
- ❖ Bird's nest fern, mother fern, rabbits-foot fern
- ❖ Bromeliads
- ❖ Creeping fig
- ❖ Ivy
- ❖ Philodendrum
- ❖ Selaginella, dub moss or resurrection plant
- ❖ Carniverous plants



## PLANTING A TERRARIUM/BOTTLE GARDEN

- ❖ Bottom layer--small gravel providing a natural look; good drainage
- ❖ Activated charcoal—keeps soil from souring
- ❖ Layer of sheet moss
- ❖ Use sterile soil or soilless planting medium
- ❖ Position taller plants to rear (if viewed from one side); place in middle if viewed from all sides
- ❖ Arrange shorter plants to provide a 'landscaped' effect
- ❖ Do not over plant—gives plants room to grow
- ❖ Water sparingly; if over watered, remove cover for several days to allow evaporation

## Planting, continued

- ❖ **Accessories**
  - ❖ Should create subtle interest NOT detract
  - ❖ Should be appropriate for plant material
  - ❖ Small stones, seashells, treasured wood, hemlock cones
  - ❖ Avoid gaudy accessories or colored gravel or sand
  - ❖ Can create a 'landscape' feel
- ❖ Layer of sphagnum moss on soil surface—watch for mold formation
- ❖ Carefully clean glass, inside and out
- ❖ Ultimate goal is to have soil layers around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of container height

## TERRARIUM LAYERING

