

String Garden How-To

String Gardens are a type of Kokedama, which is in turn a form of bonsai. They are a fun and unique way to highlight the form of the plant and display it in an eye-pleasing way. Some forms of Kokedama use a special clay mixture to form the ball and are more difficult to master; by using natural moss and string we can create these pieces much more quickly and easily. They can be displayed hanging or sitting in a grouping on a platter or tray as well.

Choose a plant that tolerates dry conditions well and has a nicely established root system for best result. A plant in a 3-4" pot is ideal, and moisten the soil before you begin. Any type of string or sisal can be used; darker colors will not show discoloration over time. Water your String Garden frequently by soaking the ball in water and allowing to drain. Trim the plant as needed for a balanced, attractive appearance.



Supplies: Sheet moss, small plant (3-4" pot, see notes), 7" plate or saucer (helpful), scissors, string (we use waxed), beads and charms (opt.), ring for hanging



Lay 3 or 4 strings across the saucer as shown (the saucer will help keep the plant stable as you tie)



Place moss over strings and trim to slightly larger than the saucer and flatten it as best you can to an even thickness



Remove plant with moist soil from pot and knock off loose dirt, squeeze and shape into a ball shape



Set on moss and pull moss up into a loose pouch around root ball



Begin bringing up both ends of a string to right next to the plant on one side and tying as tightly as you can



Continue wrapping, squeezing, and tying the other strings; take the loose ends and wrap them around in other directions



and tie as well, adding more strings and bits of moss as needed to get a tight, firm bundle



Trim all the loose ends of string for a nice neat look



Squeeze and form the moss ball as you go to get a uniform, balanced shape



Cut two more pieces of string and tie the securely to a wrapping string on opposite sides, near the top



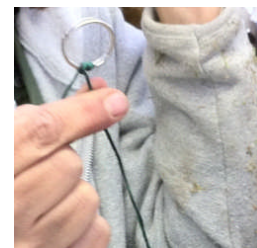
Knot them securely together just above the plant and then tie a string for hanging to that joint



At this point beads and charms may be added, spacing them by tying more knots in the string



A bottom charm can be added by tying on yet another piece of string



Finally, tie the center string to a curtain ring or key ring for hanging