

## Terrarium Containers and Where to Find Them

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For those of us who grow plants in terrariums, finding appropriate containers is sometimes a challenge. Even with internet shopping available to most of us, purchasing a terrarium that is just the right size, shape, height, appearance, or price can be difficult. Fortunately, in addition to using containers designed as terrariums, begonias will grow in most clear containers that have a clear cover or can be covered. Some will grow well in the extra humidity provided by the sides of the container, and will not need a cover.

Glass containers that work well include bowls, brandy snifters, large hurricane lamps, cloches, fish bowls, pickle jars, aquariums, cake dishes, cheese covers, trifle bowls, and display boxes or cases. Many of these can be purchased new at kitchen stores, craft stores, at discount stores such as Ross, Marshalls, or T.J. Maxx in the home section, Target, or at pet stores. Home Goods stores in our area sometimes have a selection of less expensive glass containers suitable for terrariums. Glass cloches or terrariums can be purchased at local nurseries or via the internet or catalogues. Put your planting medium into a deep saucer, then under a cloche, and you have created a terrarium/contained atmosphere. Containers purchased without a cover can be sealed with glass circles cut at a glass shop to fit the opening, with plastic wrap, or with disposable plastic plates available at party or grocery stores. Many stores sell clear glass plates that work well as terrarium lids. Used containers can be purchased at antique/junk shops, Goodwill or Salvation Army, or garage sales.

Plastic containers such as disposable salad bowls, fish bowls or aquariums, soda bottles, display boxes or small display cases, cloches, sweater boxes, large plastic storage containers, clear ice buckets, large pretzel jars, or cookie containers are suitable for growing terrarium plants. Some can be purchased at Dollar Tree, and other 'Dollar' stores. Party stores sell multiple sizes of disposable salad/fruit/punch bowls and some sell large clear ice buckets. Put one bowl or ice bucket on top of the other to make a terrarium. If the bowl or ice bucket has a rolled edge, the top and bottom can be held together with hair clips called claws. These are similar to orchid clips and come in multiple sizes that fit most containers with rolled edges. Hair clips are available in most grocery and some pharmacy stores.

Some local nurseries stock bowl terrariums, cloches, and Wardian cases, or may be willing to order one for you. Craft stores such as A C Moore, Michaels, and stores like Ocean Job Lots or Hobby Lobby sell small to large less expensive glass bowls. Botanic gardens often have gift shops that sell terrariums. Trade plant catalogues with friends or look at catalogues at local horticultural parks or libraries for terrariums for sale. Type terrarium into Google or another search engine and you should have several options from which to choose. If you are determined and flexible, you should be able to find a container to suit most humidity-loving begonias.

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