

# Miniature Gardens

## Sources of ideas

<http://miniaturegardenshoppe.com/content.html>

[http://www.kiddiegardens.com/miniature\\_gardens.html](http://www.kiddiegardens.com/miniature_gardens.html)

<https://www.bridgman.co.uk/inspired-ideas/miniature-fairy-gardens>

<http://empressofdirt.net/plants-for-miniature-gardens>

<http://whatwillwedotoday.com/2012/05/21/home-sweet-garden-home>



**Like a real garden you need to plan your garden in advance** :- what size will it be , what features do you want and how will it be laid out. Do you want several layers or heights? Do you want buildings, features or characters in it? Will it have a theme like cottage garden, dinosaurs, fairies or beach? It may be helpful to draw out a plan of how your garden will be laid out.



**Choose your container:-** If it is for a competition check on the maximum size or guidelines. Does it have to be deep enough to do layers? What is the best shape for your design? If you are putting tall objects in make sure you have enough depth to support them in.



**Building your garden:-** Fill your container with soil or sand [probably to at least 4cm. draw out your plan into the soil, then put in the hard landscaping features:- Walls or structures that will form your layers, buildings, fences, paths, patios, ponds and garden features like arches, bridges etc. and the grass. Next go in the trees and shrubs, the tall or large plants. Last go in the small plants and the small features and characters in your garden. Glass can be made with moss, felt, green dyed flour or fine cut grass turf .



**Choosing things for your garden:-** You want to pick plants and features that match your theme. Dinosaurs go well with spiky plants on sand , fairies go well with soft foliage and flowers. Try to think of the scale, if you put in a building or people the rest needs to fit that size. You can pick small plants or break up multi headed flowers to get the right size. Woody shrubs with small leaves can have side branches stripped off the make the trunk of a tree [remember to allow enough trunk to push well into the soil]. Playmobile, lego, fairies or miniature action figures make good character sizes and accessories for miniature gardens.



**Making things for your garden:-** With enough time, half the fun of miniature gardens is making the features for your garden. You can make **buildings** from cardboard, pringle tubs, plastic bottles, tubes or small plant pots; decorating them with paint, stick on lolly sticks or balsa wood, small stones or shells or even lentils or rice. Roofs can be made of cardboard with 'tiles', straws , moss or grasses stuck on. The wavy inside of corrugated cardboard looks like corrugated iron and curves well. Acetate [often found in packaging] can be used for greenhouses, cold frames and windows. Fabric on some sticks can make tents or wigwams. Doorways and arches can be made from clay cardboard.



**Hard Landscaping** is the non-plant features of your garden; fences, walls, ponds, paths and patios. These can be made of a wide range of materials.

**Paths and patios** can be made of tiny stones, rice, lentils, sand, flat pebble/wood circle or glass circle stepping stones. Paths and decking can be made of lolly sticks or cardboard. Paving slabs can be made of tiny tiles or broken slate, crockery or moulded from clay as slabs or bricks.

**Walls** can be made from stone or clay or painted polystyrene

**Fences** can be made from Balsa wood, straws threaded together, cocktail sticks and wire, lolly sticks, trigs, thin cardboard or the inside of corrugated cardboard



**Water** can be in ponds or rivers. Ponds can be made from jar lids, moulded from clay or tin foil pie dishes or any suitable small vessel with the water painted, blue dyed real water or pva glue mixed with blue colouring. You can add 'water plants' like tiny round leaves for water lilies or spiky bull rushes or iris. Streams or large ponds can be simulated with blue glass beads or stones or moulded tin foil with pva glue and blue colouring. You can make a water feature with a shell or little pot with real or artificial water in it



**Garden features and ornaments** can be made [the bbq and white feature are made from bottle tops] like play equipment, or small trinkets used, like the wheelbarrow and arch or the guitar and props in the caravan garden. How about a washing line, bunting, statues or picnic.



**Furniture** can be made or bought. Wood, metal wire, clay even fabric hammocks



**The main thing is HAVE FUN creating your own special little garden place.**

Killearn Horticultural Show is on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016 with a miniature garden class- on a tray [not to exceed 23x37cm]