



## Make Your Own Living Ornament

The living ornaments that adorn the Conservatory are always a welcome sight. You can make your own in a few easy steps.

**MAKE YOUR OWN LIVING ORNAMENT**

*This project is essentially a mini terrarium. Use your imagination, experiment and have fun!*

**Materials**

- Plastic ornament from craft store, 3" or 4" (bigger is easier to work with)
- Funnel
- Small pot (to hold ornament)
- Fine grain soil
- Water
- Plant (cuttings or seed)
- Long tweezers

**Instructions**

1. Place ornament on a small pot or cup for support and remove top.
2. Using a funnel, add 2-3 tbsp of fine soil.
3. Using long tweezers, place a small cutting or seeds in the soil.
4. Water carefully to moisten the soil, there should be no standing water.
5. Place in a bright area, without direct sunlight, until the cutting roots.
6. Check every few days for water. Only water when dry.
7. Put top back on when ready to display.

*Flip over for a list of suggested plants!*

# SEASON'S GREENINGS

## Suggested Plants

Any plant that stays small could be a potential living ornament plant.

- African violet (*Saintpaulia ionantha*)
- String-of-beads (*Senecio rowleyanus*)
- Polka-dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*)
- Bloodleaf (*Iresine herbstii*)
- Waffle plant (*Hemigraphis* spp.)
- Nerve plant (*Fittonia albivenis*)
- Begonia (*Begonia* spp.)
- Coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*)
- Brass buttons (*Leptinella squalida*)
- Earth Star (*Cryptanthus bivittatus*)
- Succulents
- Cacti



## Tips

- Cuttings are limited by size. The cutting has to fit through the small opening at the top of the ornament.
- These living ornaments need a bright area without direct sun and should be watered only when dry.
- If the inside of the ornament collects condensation, remove the top to allow the extra moisture to evaporate.
- Repeat the cycle! When plants begin to fade, open the ornament; add water, shake and drain. Use tweezers to pull out the plant remnants, or if the plant is too large, let the ornament dry completely then crumble the plants and soil to remove. Clean the ornament and start again.



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