

RAINFOREST BIOSPHERE

GROW YOUR OWN JAMMIN' JUNGLE!



PLANTING AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Rainforests are some of the world's most ancient and complex ecosystems. They cover a mere 2% of the Earth, yet more than half of all plant and animal species live there. The rainforest is home to creatures as famous as the jaguar and poison dart frog, as well as lesser-known and even unidentified species. Now you can create and explore your own mini rainforest at home with these 4 exotic plant species, your own rainforest friend and much more!

Grow your own piece of the colorful and tropical rainforest! Grow a variety of plants with tropical textures and vibrant patterns. Your rainforest will develop into exotic trees, underbrush and even vines! Hide and discover your own rainforest treasure and make a home for your rainforest friend! Create your own untamed river and finish the scene with rainforest themed plant markers and color decals. All the fantastic species in the set are quick to sprout and vigorous growers!

CONTENTS

- Dome Terrarium
- Rainforest Friend
- Rainforest Treasure
- 4 Color Seed Packs:

Tropical Umbrella Plant, 85 g
Pink Polka Dot Plant, 35 mg
Moon Flower, 600 mg
Rainbow Plant, 2 mg

- 4 Rainforest Plant Stakes
- 3 Rainforest Friend Decals
- Rainforest River Gravel
- 2 Germination Disks
- Growing and Care Instructions



PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Growing your garden is easy and rewarding if you follow the simple steps outlined below.

- For best results, plan your garden on paper before actually planting it. Here are some ideas to help add interest:
 - Form mounds with the soil and plant seeds on top.
 - Make paths or designate planting areas by pressing indentations into the soil and filling with your rainforest river gravel.
 - Place the plants in groupings or mix them all together. You can make several large groupings or many small ones.
- Hydrate your germination disks:
 - Place the disks in the base of your terrarium.
 - Fill terrarium base with 4 cups of room temperature water.
 - Disks will rapidly dissolve and turn into germination mixture.
 - Mix up your dissolved germination mixture. Make sure that there are no clumps and press smooth.
- Apply decals to the base of the dome.
- Place your rainforest river gravel on top of soil to create paths or designs, and designate areas before planting seeds.
- Place your seeds on top of the soil and press them in. Here are some planting tips:
 - When planting seeds, place them a third to a half an inch apart; planting them too close together will cause them to crowd each other out.
 - Don't plant all the seeds at once. Plant what you need, and save the rest in case you must replant; enough seeds are included to replant at least one time.
 - Place your plant stakes in the areas you designated for your plants.
 - Sprinkle Tropical Umbrella Plant seeds in their designated area and lightly press into the soil. Seeds will germinate in about one month.
 - Sprinkle the Pink Polka Dot Plant seeds in their designated area and lightly press into the soil. Seeds will germinate in four days to a week.
 - Sprinkle Moon Flower seeds in their designated area and press in 1/4 inch into soil. Seeds will germinate in about a week.
 - Sprinkle Rainbow Plant seeds in their designated area and lightly press into soil. Seeds will germinate in about 10 days.
 - Be sure to review the content on the seed packet for additional information.
- Decorate your dome with rainforest treasure and your new rainforest friend.

- Place your dome in a windowsill or near a window with an eastern or southern exposure and in a place where it cannot be easily knocked over.
- Feel free to add your own miniature rainforest treasures.
- Retain these instructions for further use.

PLANT INFORMATION

Tropical Umbrella Plant

China Doll (*Radermachera sinica*)

Plant Information

This very easy to grow plant boasts sensational, tropical foliage. Renowned for its beauty and high speed growth, this upright columnar bush is native to subtropical mountain regions of southern China and Taiwan. It is admired for its delicate and soft structure along with its glossy green foliage. The beautiful Tropical Umbrella Plant thrives in normal indoor temperatures making it a great houseplant.

Growing Information

Keep your Tropical Umbrella Plant in very bright natural light just shy of full sun. East, south and west windows should do nicely. The Tropical Umbrella Plant does best in moist, well-drained soil. Allow the top of the soil to dry out before watering since the Tropical Umbrella Plant prefers to be on the dry side. The foliage may turn a pale green when the plant needs water. Provide good air circulation around the plant and keep the leaves dry. Keep a Tropical Umbrella Plant well-pruned at all times; otherwise, the plant becomes leggy, thin, and unsightly. When cutting the plant back, always allow a few leaves to remain on each stem to produce food for the roots. The new growth makes the plant stronger and bushier.



Pink Polka Dot Plant

(*Hypoestes phyllostachya*)

Plant Information

More than two thirds of the world's plant species are found in the tropical rainforests. With the Pink Polka Dot Plant, you can take part of the rainforest home with you. Their red, pink and white dotted foliage add character to any space. Native to Madagascar, the Polka Dot Plant is a perennial shrub-like species that can grow up to 3 feet tall!

Growing Information

The Pink Polka Dot Plant requires moderate light. Bright light is essential for good leaf color, but too much light from direct sun will scorch the leaves. The soil should be kept moist at all times, but take care not to overwater so that the soil becomes soggy, which will cause the leaves to turn yellow. If the leaves begin to wilt, you are probably under watering the plant. Water thoroughly and your Pink Polka Dot Plant will usually spark back up. If you move your plant outdoors for the summer, keep it fully shaded from the hot sun, which can cause the leaves to curl up and develop scorch marks. You can also easily take a cutting from this plant. Put them in water to root and you can have even more Pink Polka Dot Plants!



Moon Flower

Morning Glory (*Ipomoea Crimson Rambler*)

Plant Information

As night approaches the rainforest and all its amazing creatures wind down and get ready for bed, a select few are just waking up and ready to roam this unique ecosystem. While the leopard cat and Wallace's Flying Frog head out to hunt and feed, they are likely to see the Moon Flower in full bloom. The Moon Flower is a popular fragrant variety of morning glories that opens in the evenings with a sweet fragrance that lasts through the night until touched by the morning sun. The Moon Flower is a common name for over 1,000 species of flowering plants in the Convolvulaceae family. With their lush green foliage and heart-shaped leaves, morning glory flowers can grow to almost 8 inches across!

Growing Information

It's been found useful to germinate the Moon Flower by putting the seeds in a damp paper towel. Spread the seeds out on the paper towel and carefully fold the towel in half and place in a plastic bag. Set in a relatively warm place, and the seeds will germinate in about a week. Once the seeds are planted, the Moon Flower will need a good support system for the upcoming vine. Moon Flowers are favorites of the sun, so do not overwater them.



Rainbow Plant

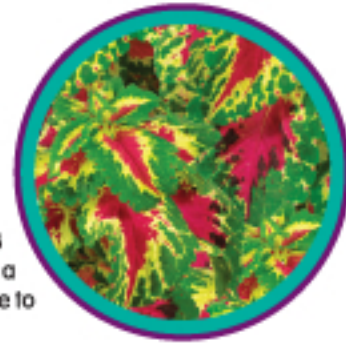
Rainbow Coleus (*Coleus x hybridus*)

Plant Information

Rainforest flowers can be as spectacular and colorful as the rainforest birds and animals. Tropical rainforest plants are exotic and very beautiful. Rainbow Coleus would be a perfect addition to any rainforest since they are grown almost exclusively for their colorful foliage. Growing up to 3 feet tall, the coleus plant is a wonderful way to brighten up a room. There are actually about 60 species of coleus, all native to Asia and Malaysia.

Growing Information

When planting the Rainbow Coleus press the seeds into the soil but take care not to cover the seeds. Coleus plants thrive when they have plenty of light, especially a southern sun exposure, which provides several hours of bright light. Keep the soil moist. Coleus plants love a good drink of water, but not too much.



RAINFOREST TREASURE (FOOL'S GOLD)

Fool's Gold is actually a nickname for the mineral pyrite, an iron sulfide with the formula FeS_2 . Easily recognized by its bright yellow color and brilliant luster, many less-than-knowledgeable miners frequently believed they hit the jackpot upon finding pyrite during historical periods of gold rushes. There are other shiny brassy yellow minerals, but pyrite is by far the most common and the most often mistaken for gold. Pyrite is, however, a favorite among rock collectors. It can have a beautiful golden luster and interesting crystals. It is so common in the earth's crust that it is found in almost every possible environment; hence its vast number of forms and varieties.

GENERAL CARE INFORMATION

Watering

Your terrarium will only need water once or twice a month when the top is on. You can tell the relative moisture by the weight of the container. Even if you see moisture forming inside the lid of the container, the terrarium may still need water.

Once your plants sprout and have grown to about 3 inches, you will want to remove the top and water them once or twice to maximize your harvest.

If you over-water the terrarium, tip it gently to pour out the excess water, leave the top off and place it in an area with a southern exposure until desired moisture level is reached.

Your growing mixture is inert and contains no fertilizer. You may fertilize your terrarium in the spring and summer with a water-soluble house-plant food or time-release pellets. Your plants prefer to be fertilized during the spring and summer.

When you water your plants, sprinkle the water over the foliage to rinse the leaves.

Location

Your plants like bright light. Be sure to rotate your dome a quarter turn to encourage even growth. The best location for your terrarium is on a windowsill with an eastern exposure. Be sure the window is not drafty.

Your plants prefer to be in a cooler room. Many plants will wilt in direct hot, afternoon sun.

Your plants will naturally reach toward the light, so rotate your dome every week.

Do not place your terrarium near a heating or cooling vent.

Your terrarium is sensitive to temperature and should be in a room that is between 60° (15° Celsius) and 85° (29° Celsius).

Do not place your terrarium outside in the hot sun. The temperature inside the terrarium will rise to levels that are not safe for your plants. You may place it outdoors in the shade and when the temperature is below 80 degrees (26° Celsius).

A common problem with terrariums is that they are easily knocked over. Keep this in mind as you choose the location for your terrarium.

Other Notes

If mold forms, remove it with a twig or water the terrarium with a 1:50 mix of hydrogen peroxide to water (one capful of hydrogen peroxide to seven ounces of water). This will kill the mold but not the plants.

If you remove the top to allow the plants to grow larger, be sure to check the moisture levels every few days.

If a particular plant is overgrowing the rest, feel free to trim it back.

You can trim your plants back if they are growing too wide or tall, or if you just prefer them bushier. It is important to cut them above a set of leaves and to water afterward, as pruning can be a shock to some plants. This will help keep them small and bushy.

It is okay to let the plants bloom, but keep the plants from going dormant by trimming off any seed pods before seeds form.

You can transplant your plants into other containers. Be sure to water first and remove as big of a ball of soil around the roots as you can. To replant, make sure the soil in the new container is moist, place the soil ball into a pre-dug hole, and water thoroughly.

Your plants like fresh air. Be sure to remove the top after they sprout or frequently if left on. This will reduce the change of mold growing.

ABOUT RAINFORESTS

Rainforests are the most complex and species-rich ecosystems on Earth. Covering only 2% of the Earth's surface, rainforests include a myriad of different species of plants and animals that are all adapted to rain, and lots of it. Rainforest plants thrive extremely well in this environment, because every plant loves a lot of water, and rainforests are indeed very wet places. This means rainforests are thick and dense, full of plant life, and packed with different species.

Animal life is also complex. Insects flourish. Frogs and reptiles thrive. Bird life is noisy and colorful with many species of parrots and cockatoos. Since birds mostly live in the rainforest canopy, rainforest snakes are often tree snakes. Many mammals also live up in the trees, whether they are herbivores or carnivores.

All these plants and animals are dependent on each other and/or benefit from each other in different ways in the ecosystem.

Rainforests exert a powerful control over the world's climate with their influence on temperature, wind and humidity. They even impact our rainfall. Yet over 4,000 acres of this irreplaceable forest is being burned off each hour. Rainforests that once covered 14% of the earth's surface are being destroyed gradually. The cutting of rainforests not only endangers mankind but also the different species of animals and plants who live there. Experts estimate that we are losing 137 plants, animal and insect species every single day. That equates to 50,000 species a year. As the rainforest species disappear, so do many possible cures for life-threatening diseases. Currently, 121 prescription drugs sold worldwide come from plant-derived sources.

Rainforest destruction is a very serious problem. Every year, 50 million acres of tropical forests are cleared. At this pace, almost all the world's rainforests will be lost in 50 years! Burning rainforests releases carbon dioxide, and at this degree, rainforest destruction is responsible for 17% of our annual carbon dioxide emission. That's more than the entire world's cars, ships and airplanes release together. The future of the rainforest is hard to predict but one thing is certain we must stop deforestation now before it is too late.



RAINFOREST FROGS

There are countless species of frogs in the rainforests all of them colorful and vibrant. Because frogs have permeable skin and lose a lot of water, they need constant moisture to survive, making the rainforest the perfect home for any frog. Rainforest frogs love to camouflage themselves to the plants they inhabit. Try to camouflage your rainforest friend with your new plants and have no worries about watering the terrarium with your frog friend inside, they need it to survive!

FUN RAINFOREST FACTS

- An area of rain forest the size of a football field is being destroyed each second.
- Rainforests have 170,000 of the world's 250,000 known plant species.
- The trees of a tropical rainforest are so densely packed that rain falling on the canopy can take as long as 10 minutes to reach the ground.
- In the moist rainforests of South America, sloths move so slowly that algae is able to grow in their fur.
- More than 2,000 different species of butterflies are found in the rainforests of South America.
- The forests of Central Africa are home to more than 8,000 different species of plants.
- Flying animals of Asian rainforests include frogs, squirrels and snakes.
- 80% of flowers in the Australian rainforests are not found anywhere else in the world.
- Bats are essential for the pollination of many tropical foodstuffs such as bananas and mangoes.
- 1 out of 4 ingredients in our medicine is from rainforest plants.
- More than 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest. That is why the Amazon Rainforest is sometimes called the "Lungs of the Planet".
- At least 3,000 different fruits are found in the rainforests.
- The number of species of fish in the Amazon exceeds the number found in the entire Atlantic Ocean!
- About 2,000 trees per minute are cut down in the rainforest. Let's do everything we can to save them...



MORE GREAT PRODUCTS FROM DUNECRAFT



That's why DuneCraft has teamed up with an inspiring and dedicated organization, doing everything they can to help save our rainforests: The Arbor Day Foundation.

The Arbor Day Foundation is the world's oldest and largest tree-planting organization dedicated to helping people plant, nurture and celebrate trees. In 1992, this important non-profit organization developed Rainforest Rescue, a unique program designed to bring people together to restore damaged land and protect and preserve our precious rainforests.

In 2011, DuneCraft and The Arbor Day Foundation created a product that informs and educates children and adults alike about our depleting rainforests and what we can do to help save them. Through modern agricultural practices such as shade-grown coffee and scientific forestry, Rainforest Rescue helps local residents preserve what remains of the world's largest tropical rainforest, the Maya Forest.



COMPANY INFORMATION

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