

How to make a Kokedama (Japanese Moss ball)

A fun way of growing and displaying plants without pots by wrapping plants in soil and moss and held together with string.

Equipment: Small plants, natural string, moss (this can be from lawn rakings or bought from garden centre/florist/online); **soil mixture:** 1 part multipurpose to 2 parts loam soil



1. Mix compost and soil with water to make a wet mixture; take a handful and roll into a ball shape the size of an orange, squeeze together so the ball holds its shape



2. Carefully twist the ball of soil to break into two halves



3. Place the small plant between the two halves of the soil ball



4. Squeeze the two halves of the soil ball together around the plant to form one ball again with the plant in the middle.



5. Stick moss around the soil ball, covering all the surface area with an even layer



6. Wrap string around moss ball several times in different directions to form a secure wrapping around the moss. Make a loop of string if you want to hang the moss ball up. Place in a sheltered sunny spot or conditions to suit your plant's needs.

Looking after your Kokedama - feel the weight of the ball to see when you need to water (if it is light it will need watering). Submerge in a bucket of water for 5 minutes and then leave to drip dry. String may rot over time so renew annually.