



Growing and Care Instructions



Introduction



Learn about the plants that were used for centuries in spells, potions, and brews when you create your own Witches' Woods. This mystical garden contains the plants used to make flying potions, help see the future, ward off the Evil Eye, and even attract money! The Witches' Woods also has plants used in love charms, healing rituals, hex-breaking, and much more.

The complete kit comes with everything you need, including five color seeds packs, planting and drainage mixture, witches' stakes, decals, glow in the dark bugs, and a giant spider. The plants are easy to grow and will start sprouting in less than a week. The in-depth information manual contains information on growing, harvesting, and using the plants as well as a thorough history and lore.

Contents

- Planting terrarium
- Five color witches brew seed packets—St. John's Wort, Sage, Catnip, Thyme, and Basil
- Witches' spider and glowing bugs
- Lava rock
- Five witches' plant stakes
- Three witches' decals
- Peat-based planting mixture
- Perlite drainage mixture
- Instructions and growing manual

Witches Brew Herb Mix

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Plant Information:

Basil, also commonly known as the "Witches' Herb," is thought to promote purification, prosperity, and protection. As such, it has been used in exorcism and purification ceremonies. It has been said that witches drank an enchanted flying potion that was made from basil. This powerful herb was also used in love potions.

Hundreds of years ago, some physicians claimed that basil hurt the stomach, dulled the eyes, and even brought on insanity. Still, the herb was once used to treat patients with nervous ailments and had gained a reputation for its calming effect. A tea can be made from the leaves of many varieties; this tea was once given for depression and nausea. The essential oil from basil is used for harmony.

There are many legends surrounding that basil plant. It has been said that if you crush a basil leaf between two bricks, it will transform into a scorpion. In ancient Greece and Rome, it was commonly thought that basil only grew in the gardens of those who had difficult lives.

Growing Information:

Basil will try to flower throughout the summer, but if it is harvested before it begins to flower, the plant will be encouraged to continue growing and provide a continuous supply of the herb. Basil grows very easily from seeds, which should be planted 1/8 inch deep and will germinate in three to seven days. Although basil is fairly easy to grow, it needs warmth, full sun, plenty of moisture, and well-drained soil.



The Wheel of the Year marks the important days in the Witches' Calendar and was inspired by the sun wheel or solar cross, a pre-Christian European calendar.

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

Plant Information:

Sage is used for fertility, longevity, wishes, wisdom, protection, purification, healing, and health magic. Sage is used to heal the mind, body, and soul. It is said that if you eat Sage you will become not only more wise, but possibly immortal. Sage can be added to almost any healing spell; its leaves are known to ward off the Evil Eye and to attract money. Because of its appearance, this plant is believed to have been the inspiration for the seven-branched Menorah.



Being a mild stimulant when used to make tea, this herb has been used to relieve tension headaches and sore throats. It has also been known to improve the memory, quicken the senses, and foster longevity. This herb contains antiseptic properties that can be used as a compress for wounds that are slow to heal. It has even been used as a mouthwash for infections of the throat or mouth.

As with basil, there are a multitude of legends about the sage plant. It has been said that planting sage in the garden will prolong the owner's life. Another legend of sage is that it prospers only in household where the wives rule. And when sage grows in the garden, prosperity is said to be present at that owner's house.

Growing Information:

Sage should be planted on top of the soil and can take up to three weeks to sprout. It is an evergreen perennial, growing to 2 feet tall, which does best in sandy, limey soil in full sun. Even the young leaves will have the gray-green color and pebbly texture of the mature plant. Sage that is being gathered for magical use should not be cut with a metal knife known as a Boline.

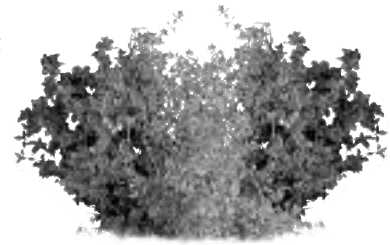


The Cup of Chalice is a symbol of psychic ability, the power of the subconscious and is a symbol of the element of water.

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Plant Information:

This mystical herb has been cultivated since ancient times. It is considered to have magical properties and is used in love spells, dream magic, spells to inspire strength and courage, and spells to enable extra-sensory perception. Burn thyme for purification, protection from negativity, and to enable clairvoyance.



Thyme leaves are small and aromatic. You can harvest the leaves for fresh use anytime or harvest right before flowering to dry for later use. Thyme can be used to make a strong tea that has been used to treat a wide variety of ailments from sore throats to hangovers. Thyme is also a moth repellent.

Growing Information:

Thyme is a perennial that loves warm, sunny fields, and is found throughout North America. Sow the seeds on top of the soil. They can take three to four weeks to germinate. Plants grow to 15 inches tall, and make an excellent ground cover on dry slopes. Trim it back after flowering to prevent it from becoming woody.



It is one of several styles of the Lunar Triple Goddess symbol. The symbol represents the three phases of the moon-waxing, waning, and full. It also represents the three aspects of womankind-mother, maiden, and crone.

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*)

Plant Information:

Catnip is used to call good spirits and attract good luck. It is also used in all forms of cat magic and shapeshifting. Sometimes this herb is used to strengthen the mental bond between a cat and its owner. Catnip is also used in love charms, healing rituals, and keeping happiness in a home. If this herb is used in a pillow sachet, it is said to promote healing dreams and a restful sleep. Be sure to harvest the leaves before the plant blooms.



If you crush the foliage of this herb, it releases oil that attracts cats. In fact, cats will rub up against the foliage themselves to bruise it and release the scent. The dried leaves are used in making cat toys. Leaves are used in tea, which is said to relieve head colds, and can also be added to salads, stews, and sauces.

Growing Information:

Catnip is easy to grow and can be sprinkled on the surface of moist germination mixture. This herb takes about a week to germinate. If planted outdoors, it can grow several feet tall and spread to cover a fairly wide area. This versatile herb can tolerate a wide range of conditions from full sun to light shade, rich soil to poor soil, or wet or dry conditions. Catnip is a member of the mint family.



The pentacle is the most recognized witches' symbol. It represents the combination of the mind and spirit and the mastery of the four elements and is used in many rituals.

St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

Plant Information:

St. John's Wort, also called "scare-devil," is one of the oldest known witches' herbs. It was traditionally gathered on Saint John's Eve to defend against evil spirits; foliage would be hung in doors and windows. The plant was also burned by people in the middle ages to repel evil spirits, and it has long been used in antisorcery charms. This herb has known to be magically protective and has been used to treat melancholy. In fact, in recent times, St. John's Wort has been used to treat depression. The red sap that comes from the stems when the plant is cut has been used externally to treat burns and inflammation, cure sores, and stop bleeding.



Growing Information:

Sprinkle the seeds on the surface of the soil. They will readily germinate and grow within a day if given light and moisture. The variety included in your planting mix is the only St. John's Wort with oil glands in the leaves. If you hold a leaf up to the light, you will see tiny holes in the leaves where the glands are. The only part of this plant that should be used is the flowering tops.



The Cauldron is from ancient Celtic mythology. The cauldrons were used for food and in divine inspiration and intervention rituals. In Celtic mythology, the Cauldron provides infinite artistic inspiration.

Laying out the Garden

Magical gardens are rarely formal. Most are organized plots arranged in a circular shape, the circle being the ancient symbol of fertility, reincarnation, and eternity. Some are quite intricate, laid out as stars, suns, and crescent moons. Try to position herbs of like heights next to each other.

Planting

Planting is guided by the moon, as is much of a witch's life. Some who follow the movement of the moon through the zodiac will plant herbs only during the moist and fertile signs.

Gather together the seed packets. Place them just as they are in the center of the garden. Then taking the seeds, plant them according to the directions on the package, following the design you laid out. As you sow each herb place the stake that bears its name facing its section. As you water your plants, talk to them, use your imagination, visualize them as they will be when they grow.

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 by pressing indentations into the soil and filling with decorative gravel.
 - Place the plants in groupings or mix them all together. You can make several large groupings or many small ones.
- Apply decals to the base of the dome.
- Pour about an inch of perlite in the bottom of the planting container for drainage.
- Massage the bag of soil, open, and pour to fill the bottom of the planting base.
- Mix in one to two cups of water and mix with soil until it is thoroughly moist.
- Form paths, mounds, and place stones 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 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.
 - Be sure to review the content on the seed packet for additional information
- Sprinkle about a half cup of water on top of the seeds.
- Add decorative components and stakes.
- Place in a windowsill or near a window with an eastern or southern exposure and in a place where it cannot be easily knocked over.
- Your seeds will germinate in about a week.
- Feel free to find your own miniature treasures to add.
- Retain these instructions for further use.

Growing and Care Tips

Watering

- Your terrarium will only need water every one to three months 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.
- If you over-water the terrarium, tip it gently to pour out the extra 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 houseplant 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 greenhouse every week. If they are stretching too much, they may need more light.
- Do not place your terrarium close to a heating or cooling vent.
- Do not place your terrarium outside in the hot sun. The temperature inside the terrarium will rise to levels that are not safe for the plants. You may place it outdoors in the shade and when it is below 80 degrees (26° Celsius).
- Your terrarium is sensitive to temperature and should be in a room that is between 60 degrees (15° Celsius) and 85 degrees (29° Celsius).
- A common problem with terrariums is that they are easily knocked over. Keep this in mind as you choose the location for your windowsill greenhouse.

Other Notes

- If mold forms, remove it with a twig or water the greenhouse 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 level 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 you would 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 chance of mold growing.

Terrariums — General Information

Terrariums, a favorite since the 1800s, continue to enjoy popularity today. Creating a terrarium is easy, fun, and inexpensive. Care is minimal and they can go for months without water under proper conditions. Also, a wide variety of plants can be grown that would normally fail in the dry, drafty environment of the average home. Avid gardeners celebrate terrariums as a way to extend their gardening season all year long.

Terrariums — History

Terrariums are miniature, self-contained eco-systems. Once created, these closed environments can go for months unattended without even the addition of water. The history of terrariums is rooted in the Victorian Age where they were used in parlors to house delicate and exotic plants.

The invention of the terrarium is credited to Dr. Nathaniel Ward, a London physician who discovered it by accident. While experimenting with cocoons in covered jars, he found tiny plants growing and thriving in the soil of the jars, even as plants in his backyard were dying from polluted air. Next, he successfully experimented with growing ferns in covered containers. The result: the first terrariums, then known as "Wardian cases." These were large, enclosed containers used for growing delicate plants in the home or transporting plants over long distances. The terrariums used most often today are small, ornamental versions of the Wardian case.

Terrariums — How They Work

Terrariums are a self-contained environment. Once planted, they need nothing from the outside except a little indirect sunlight; they can even go without water for a long period of time. Moisture in the terrarium evaporates from the soil and plant leaves, condensing on the roof and walls. The condensed water drips down, remoistening the soil in a continual closed-loop process. The atmosphere inside is jungle-like, with high humidity, warm temperatures, and no drafts—perfect conditions for many of the tropic-native houseplants that are common today. As long as the terrarium's top is sealed, this process can continue for months or even years.

Customer Service

Questions? Email sales@dunecraft.com or call 1-800-306-4168.

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