

Kids' Corner

Kokedama Christmas Balls - Activity

This is going to be so much fun, mud pies for Christmas with a dash of plant!

A kokedama is a form of Japanese garden art. It is a ball of soil with a mixture of worm castings or peat. They can be covered with sphagnum, moss or baby tears on which a plant can grow.



“Koke“ meaning moss and “dama” meaning ball. Known as Japanese string gardens.

What you will need:

- Potting soil
- Peat, sphagnum, moss or worm castes
- Seeds, viola, mizuna, lettuce, small succulents, orchids, bromeliads or string of pearls
- Colourful string (maybe red and white for Christmas), wool or jute
- Scissors
- Newspaper
- Bucket
- Spray bottle

There are different mixes you can choose: Worm castings and potting mix, potting mix and peat, potting mix and sphagnum etc., as long as your mix binds together.



- Soak the sphagnum moss or peat, whichever you choose to use, for about ten minutes.
- Make a combination of 1/2 potting mix, 1/2 sphagnum or peat and shape it into a ball. I have used 1/3 worm castes, 1/3 sphagnum and 1/3 potting mix. The mix should stick to itself, if not add more worm castes or peat, press out the excess moisture. You don't want your ball to be crumbly.
- Make sure the ball is a good size for your hand size.
- Roll your ball in your seed mix, or if you are using succulents, etc., push the succulents into the ball.
- Cover your sphere with the sphagnum moss.
- Wrap your sphere with the string or colourful yarn evenly with equal spacing rotating around the sphere. This helps hold the mix together and your plant in place. If you have rolled your ball in seeds leave space for the seeds to germinate through.
- Leave some string so that you can hang your kokedama ball, or you can just have your kokedama sit on a surface.



Traditionally the kokedama will hang slightly to the side. Kokedama can be kept outside or indoors. To water your kokedama you can soak it in a bowl of water or spray it with a spray bottle regularly. You will need to keep your kokedama ball well watered if you choose to use seeds. If using succulents, you can water every couple of days. Traditionally they are kept in the shade.

