



At a GCA Zone Meeting on Long Island, Nora Galland, GCI president at the time, was inspired by the dish gardens displayed as centerpieces—and proceeded to organize this club project.

Holly Day (and Every Day) Dish Gardens



For our annual Holly Days auction and luncheon, GCI horticulture and greenhouse committee members Nora Galland, Cena Hampden and Renee Shamosh created a delightful collection of dish gardens.

These charming miniature landscapes are made with live plants, pebbles, and tiny accessories including pergolas, fences, benches, chairs, umbrellas, statuary, and gardening tools and pots.

Instructions to make your own are on the other side.





1. Choose shallow, wide containers of stone, hypertufa, terra cotta, or plastic-lined baskets.

2. Decide on a theme and collect or purchase the accessories. Nora, Cena and Renee spent hours on <http://miniaturegardenshoppe.com>, which offers helpful tips in addition to a large selection of accessories.

3. Plan the composition using plants with similar cultural requirements: sun or shade; dry or moist soil. Good choices are groups of miniature evergreens, sedums and succulents, or small ferns.

4. Fill the container with indoor potting mix.

5. Compose the dish garden by placing the features, furniture and plants in their respective places on top of the growing medium. Keep working until the miniature landscape and details can be viewed and appreciated from all sides.

6. Put in the plants first. When the container is watered and the soil has settled, gently place the accessories. Your dish garden should be kept in a covered area. Note that the containers shown here do not have drainage holes, so it's important not to overwater, which could cause root rot.

