

Children's Garden Club
Volume #7, Sheet #3
March 4, 2006
"Little Ones" from Monrovia Growers
Hardy Container Garden
Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center
2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the March Meeting.

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially Dave for hosting this month's meeting. Dave has some neat and fun things planned for us to look at and develop your own miniature garden. "Little Ones" are New in the Trade Exclusively from Monrovia. You will be working with the one quart-sized perennial 'Little Ones' collection which is ideal for small-space applications. Their compact habit is a perfect addition to any container garden.

You will have the opportunity to make a container garden to be entered into the Flower Show at the Builders Home & Garden Show, following in last month's foot steps. It is going to fun to create your own container garden using all the natural items provided by Sherwood Forest to make a mini garden using a small, medium, and taller plant to fit the small area. Check out the wide variety of plants and how you can use these small / miniature plants to fit to be used in a small area (ie. your container or a small garden). Be sure to make note of their botanical names too (for yourself and for your entry into the flower show).

A new growing trend in horticulture is the popularity of miniature plants to be used in railroad gardens or fairy gardens or the desire for a format for a small-scale landscape. With the increase number of apartment or condo dwellers, rooftop gardens (you saw one when we visited Children's Hospital roof garden) has obviously created the demand for small-scale landscape at the same time giving you the open air feeling. In making your Container Garden, consider using low, medium and taller plants to create a pleasing scene. We also have rock, stones, wood moss to create a sense of landscape in the container.

Soil mixture-texture is so important for Container plants. Container gardens soil must retain moisture without becoming waterlogged. It should be porous enough to hold plants in place. Creating a mixture using a sandy potting soil (such as a cacti mix) with a soil-less potting soil mix with organic material and perlite which is a volcanic rock particle used to improve soil drainage. Horticultural charcoal is used to absorb sour odors of decomposing materials, with some extra at the bottom with some grit or pea gravel.

How many of you remember February 1, 2004 the meeting here at Sherwood's on Bonsai, a garden in miniature that mimics the appearance of a full-size tree or landscape? In Japanese, Bonsai can be literally translated as "tray planting" or "plant in a tray" but the skill originated in Asia many centuries ago. Many people think of Bonsai as a special species of a tree. But really it is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into an aesthetically appealing shape by pruning and training them in containers but has all the characteristics of a full-grown tree. Question: how is your Bonsai doing? Well, I assume how much have they grown? Have you had to root prune them yet? Your Container Garden should be a miniature natural landscape following the same principles.

Join us at the next Children's Garden Club

2006 Calendar

All meetings are at 9:00 a.m. – at different locations throughout St. Louis County & City.
All are Free Thanks to our Sponsors. No RSVP's are required, everyone welcome
March 16- 19, 2006 Builders Home & Garden Show, America Center Section # 1790
April 1st 2006 For the Garden Haefner's. 6703 Telegraph Road – Easter Centerpiece