



BIBLICAL GARDEN



Growing and Care Instructions

Let this wonderful, varied assortment take you to the land of Biblical Times. The Biblical Garden contains some of the most important plants of the Bible! Aloe, a rare spice used to anoint the body of Jesus; Mustard, discussed in the famous parable of the Mustard seed; Date Palm, the highest regarded palm, still used in the Palm Sunday ceremonies, Joseph's Coat, inspired by the engaging story of Joseph, and Hyssop, used in most baptisms and other holy rituals are all included!

This fun and educational kit comes complete with everything you need to grow your very own Biblical Garden indoors! In addition to five color seed packs, planting mixture, two kinds of decorative pebbles, the Biblical Garden contains: five descriptive plant markers, three stained glass photo decals and complete growing instructions. You will also find information on how these Biblical plants were used and discussed in the Bible!

Contents

- Planting Terrarium
- 5 Biblical Seed Packs:
 - Aloe, Contains 100 mg
 - Date Palm, Contains 6 g
 - Hyssop, Contains 100 mg
 - Joseph's Coat, Contains 30 mg
 - Mustard, Contains 150 mg
- 3 Stained Glass Decals
- 5 Biblical Plant Stakes
- White Decorative Gravel
- Blue Decorative Gravel
- Peat-based Planting Mixture
- Growing and Care Instructions

Tips on Designing Your Garden

1. It is important to plant the types of plants in groupings, as opposed to mixing them up. This will allow them to grow best in their own "microclimate."
2. Follow the instructions carefully in terms of the order of things.
3. It is best to first create paths, and then decide where the Aloe "lake" should be placed.
4. Try to use the paths to create "separate" planting areas in the dome.
5. It is not necessary to use all the seeds. If you do, consider removing some and leaving the healthy seedlings $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart.
6. When placing the seeds, consider the growth patterns as outlined below:
 - **Aloe** will sprout in about a month, must be under a layer of blue gravel to sprout, when it grows, it will be a thin plant with thick leaves.
 - **Joseph's Coat** sprouts very quickly and grows tall and bushy.
 - **Hyssop** sprouts very quickly and will also grow tall and bushy.
 - **Mustard** will germinate in one to two weeks; however will be shorter than Hyssop and Joseph's Coat.
 - **Date Palm** can take up to two months to sprout, but will grow into an attractive plant in a year.

Planting Instructions

Growing your garden is easy and rewarding if you follow the simple steps outlined below.

1. 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 or designate planting areas 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.
2. Apply stained glass decals to the base of the dome.
3. Massage the bag of planting mixture in order to remove any clumps that may have formed during shipping.
4. Carefully empty the bag's contents into the base of the terrarium.

- Remove and dispose of any large clumps that remain, leaving only fine peat moss.
5. Mix in 1-2 cups of water and mix with soil until it is thoroughly moist.
6. Gently press and smooth soil so there are no clumps on the surface of the soil.
7. Form paths, mounds, place stones, and designate planting areas before planting seeds.
8. Place Aloe seeds on top of soil where you would like a "lake" and spread a solid layer of blue gravel over the seeds.
9. 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.
10. Add plant stakes.
11. Gently apply additional water on all seeds and gravel until soil is thoroughly wet (be careful not to wash the seeds or gravel away).
12. Line up the tabs on your dome and planting base so they form a "V" and snap dome onto planting base.
13. 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.
14. Leave the dome on the planting base at least 4-8 weeks; it is up to you after that to keep your dome on or not.
15. Feel free to find your own miniature treasures to add.
16. Retain these instructions for further use.

Care Instructions

- Since your garden will only need to be watered once initially, it is best to water plants with lukewarm water and if possible use rainwater or distilled water.
- Avoid letting your garden get cold at night.
- When the dome is on the planting base, the water will recycle. You will only need to add water once every 4-6 months!
- If you would like a true terrarium, apply clear tape over the holes in the top of the terrarium. In this case, you will not need to water at all.
- Cover top holes with tape in the spring and summer and remove in fall and winter as all plants in the Biblical Garden prefer more water in the summer and less in the winter.
- If you take the dome off the planting container, water once every week, being sure to let the soil dry out between watering.
- While the plants in your garden are resilient, and can provide you with years of growth, it is critical to not over water them.
- The plants in your Biblical Garden prefer bright light, but do not want to be in direct sunlight for long periods of time.
- For best results, rotate the Biblical Garden a 90 degrees every few days.
- If the soil appears too wet, try leaving the lid off so some of the moisture can evaporate.
- If the plants become too leggy, feel free to trim them to a one-inch height. This is called "pinching off" or cutting new growth.
- Do not grow your Biblical garden in the following areas: near an air-conditioning or heating vent, in a dark area, in an unheated area, outside in full sun, on drafty windowsills, on a TV or other electrical appliance.

What is a Biblical Garden?

A Biblical Garden is composed of plants mentioned in the Bible, plants that were extremely important to those who lived when the Old and New Testaments were written.

Plants play an important role in the Bible. They are an integral part of many Biblical stories. In fact, more than 110 species of plants are mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. This kit includes some of the most beautiful plants that relate to the Bible.

The Biblical Garden is a one-of-a-kind collection to transport your body and soul back in time and connect with the stories of the Bible. Use it while meditating. Let the Biblical Garden be a constant reminder that the Bible is full of life and beauty.

Aloe

"And there came also Nicodemus, which at first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight" St. John 19:39

Jesus' death was very traumatic for his disciples. They could not prevent his death, but they did take care of his body. Nicodemus brought Aloe and myrrh to treat his body. In Jesus' time, Aloe was used for embalming in the Middle East and Egypt. According to John 19:39, the sap extracted from Aloe was mixed with myrrh to make embalming oil.

Aloe was used to pay final respect to Jesus. The Aloe plant in your Biblical Garden is a reminder to remain loyal to friends and treat all with respect.

Planting

- Place seed on top of pre-moistened soil in a covered planting container.
- Place a layer of gravel on top of the seed and push down.
- Water and place in a sunny spot.

Care

- Let dry out thoroughly between watering.
- Likes bright light and partial sun, depending on size.
- Because the plant is 95% water, it can not be allowed to freeze.



Information

- The first mention of aloe vera as a medicine dates back to 1700 BC. Cleopatra supposedly bathed in the juices of the plant to maintain her youthful appearance.
- Christopher Columbus stated Aloe as one of the four indispensable vegetables.
- There are 200 biologically active compounds in Aloe.
- 250 human health problems have been targeted with Aloe.
- Aloe is one of the most famed plants of Arabian Medicine.
- In East Africa, Aloe is an ancient medicinal plant that is still very popular today.

Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)

When traveling through the desert, a top priority is finding water. The presence of Date Palms was and still is an indicator that an oasis is near. The Hebrews were well aware of this when they escaped Egypt.

"And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and three-score and ten palm trees: and they encamped by the water" Exodus 15:27

These trees produce fruit that sustained the travelers, the wood was used for building, the leaves could be used to cover roofs and the crown makes a very durable rope. The Palm was seen as a sign of prosperity:

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" Psalm 92:12-14

The Biblical Garden contains a close relative of the Date Palm, the tree that meant so much to Moses and the others escaping Egypt. It was a sign of hope, of life in an otherwise barren land, a true miracle to those who needed it. You can use your Palm as a living sign of your strength every day.

Planting

- Seeds prefer light to germinate. Put on surface of the soil.
- Prefers heat to germinate.
- Can take up to two months to germinate.

Care

- Keep on windowsill indoors.
- Palms like humidity.
- It is natural for the lower leaves to turn brown and fall off. Remove brown leaves with scissors, do not tear off.

Information

- The Date Palm grows in the desert where water is present, at an oasis.
- The tree also produces fruit, the leaves were used for brooms and roofs and the crown of the plant makes a durable rope.
- The Date Palm can grow up to 80 feet tall and is considered a tree, but it is actually more closely related to lilies and grass in its structure.
- The common feature of all palms is that the only growing point is at the tip of each stem.
- The Date Palm is a "Feather Palm" with noticeably narrow leaflet that will grow into a fascinating foliage plant within a year.
- The Date Palm is native to Eastern Arabia, as well as the French Riviera, Southern Italy, Sicily and Greece.



Hyssop (*Majorana syriaca*)

According to the Bible, Hyssop was used in many cleansing rituals. After David confessed his sins, he was cleansed with Hyssop:

"Purge me with Hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalms 51:7

David knew that Hyssop alone could not forgive his sins, but after he confessed he was physically cleansed as a sign of a fresh start. Let your Hyssop plants help you work to avoid sin and keep a clean conscious.

Planting

- Sow on surface of planting mixture.
- Medium rich soil.
- Germinates in 7-10 days.

Care

- Bright light.
- Regular watering.

Information

- 1.5-foot shrubby perennial evergreen with fragrant dark green leaves.
- Has small blue-violet mint-like flowers and can flower the first year.
- Leaves can be dried and used for scents.

Mustard (*Brassica Nigra*)

The seeds of a Mustard plant are extremely small, in fact, the smallest that someone living in the Middle East in Jesus' time would see. Perhaps the most famous reference in the Bible to the Mustard plant is Matthew 20:

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.



The small size of the Mustard seed was used as a metaphor for the power of faith in God. According to the Bible, faith is so powerful that even the smallest amount is capable of amazing things, and can literally move mountains. Equally significant is that a tall and strong Mustard tree could start as something so small.

"It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it." Mark 4:31-32

Your living Mustard plant in the Biblical Garden is a reminder of the power of faith. Even the smallest seeds can grow into thriving plants to support others. If you have faith, you will be capable of great things.

Planting

- Scatter seeds on surface of soil.
- Will germinate in 1-2 weeks.

Care

- Likes full sun.
- Water well.

Information

- Mustard is a fast growing plant with edible leaves.
- These plants are related to cabbages and kale.
- Seeds are used medicinally: to aid in digestion, colds, coughs, chills, arthritis, as well as aches and pains.

Joseph's Coat (*Amaranthus tricolor*)

We know that plants are important in many Bible stories. The opposite is also true. Many plants were not mentioned in the Bible, but are named after a Biblical figure. One such plant is Joseph's Coat, a beautiful plant with multi-color leaves. Though this plant was not found in the Middle East, it was named after a very important figure in the Bible. Genesis 37, 39-50 tells the story of Joseph. Joseph was the favorite son of Isaac, so Isaac made Joseph a Technicolor coat. This made Joseph's brothers jealous, so they sold Joseph into slavery and covered his coat in goat's blood. They told their father that Joseph was dead, and used his bloodsoaked coat as proof.



This plant exhibits the same multi-color beauty as Joseph's coat in the important Bible story. Each plant bears a unique combination of yellow, red and green. This plant is similar to the Poinsettia, which is a plant that is associated with Christmas. In fact, Joseph's Coat is sometimes referred to as the Summer Poinsettia.

His jealous brothers to fool their father used Joseph's coat. It was intended a sign of love of a father to his son, but was instead used in the ultimate betrayal. Though Joseph was believed to be dead and put in an unbearable situation, he survived and became a hero. The plant named in his honor reminds us of love and beauty despite barriers.

Planting

- Cover seeds with 1/4" of soil.
- Germinates in 9-12 days.

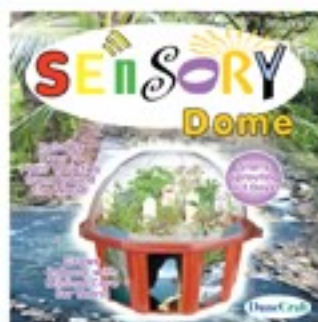
Care

- Rotate planter when grown indoors.
- Likes well drained soil.
- This plant will have more pronounced coloration when given more light.

Information

- Joseph's Coat is a leafy plant that grows up to 2 feet tall. The leaves are multi-color, with brilliant yellow, red and green sections. Joseph's coat is sometimes referred to as the Summer Poinsettia.
- This plant is native to tropical areas like the Philippines and India, but it can also be found in Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri and Puerto Rico.
- Seeds are high in protein.
- This plant is most commonly grown in Sierra Leone-produces high quality tasty greens.

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Chagrin Falls, OH 44022



WARNING:

CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts.
Not for children under 3 yrs.