

## Gladstone Regional Seed Library

### What is it?

A seed library collection is where the library loans out seeds instead of books or DVDs.

### How does it work?

Gladstone Regional Library members borrow seeds for free then plant and tend to their crops. The return on this long-term loan is not fresh produce but instead the return of some seeds from the yield. These seeds are then made available for members to plant next season

### Seed Donations:

The library is happy to accept donated seeds. When giving a donation you will be required to fill in a seed donation form with as much details about the plant as possible. Gladstone Regional Libraries are not accountable for the content of seed donations and any errors in the information provided with them.

### Information Handouts:

This range of information sheets and activities have been designed to provide basic information on the seeds available and help teachers and parents encourage and inspire their children's interest in nature.

### Curriculum Ideas:

Science: what plants need to grow

Numeracy: measuring height over a period of time, designing garden on graph paper

Literacy: Write a story about the fairies in the garden, write a letter to the fairies

Art: plants in paintings and botanical artists. Fantasy beasts and creatures

History/geography: Folk tales and legends from around the world, migration of people throughout history and cultural spread

## Further Reading and References

The following resources contain more information about the topic:

1. Appleget Hurst, S. (2020). *Top Plants for Fairy Gardens*. [online] Better Homes & Gardens. Available at: <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/houseplants/projects/top-plants-for-fairy-gardens/> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2020].
2. Flowerpower.com.au. (2020). *9 perfectly petite fairy garden plants | Flower Power*. [online] Available at: <https://www.flowerpower.com.au/garden-advice/gardening/fairy-garden-plants/> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2020].
3. Thingiverse.com. (2020). *Search Thingiverse - Thingiverse*. [online] Available at: <https://www.thingiverse.com/search?q=fairy+garden&dw=335e5337b79e546> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2020].

Seeds are freely available at all the Gladstone Regional Library branches:

- Agnes Water Library
- Boyne Tannum Community Centre
- Calliope Library
- Gladstone City Library
- Miriam Vale Library
- Mount Larcom Library
- Philips Street Family Precinct

For more information visit:

[www.gladstonelibraries.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstonelibraries.qld.gov.au)

# Gladstone Regional Libraries

## Seed Library DIY Collection

### Fairy Gardens



**Image:** Door Fairy Garden Miniature  
**Source:** Pixabay.com

# The Magic of Fairy Gardens

Fairy Gardens and Fairy Doors are miniature settings, which may contain spaces for people to leave a note or gift for the “fairies” that live there. These settings can be as simple as a door affixed to the base of a tree or a fully “landscaped” setting.

When creating your Fairy Garden first consider how much space you wish to use. A broad pot, a section in the garden, or recycling an old wheelbarrow is just some of the ideas for creating this popular miniature garden.

## Suggested Plants for pots

- Alyssum
- Coleus
- Small succulents
- Polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*)
- Mexican Heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*)
- Golden Japanese Stonecrop (*Sedum makinoi*)
- Fuchsia Begonia (*Begonia fuchsoides*)
- Corsican mint (*Mentha requienii*)
- No mow grass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*)

## Building a Fairy Garden

### Equipment:

- Plants/Seeds (dwarf varieties for pots, tall varieties for garden)
- Soil/Potting mix
- Broad based pot e.g. Bonsai pot (if not planting in ground)
- Watering can/Garden hose
- Trowel
- Gardening gloves
- Miniature furnishings
- Gravel/Rocks (optional)
- Mask (while handling potting mix)
- Slow release fertiliser (optional)
- Pruning shears/scissors

### Set Up:

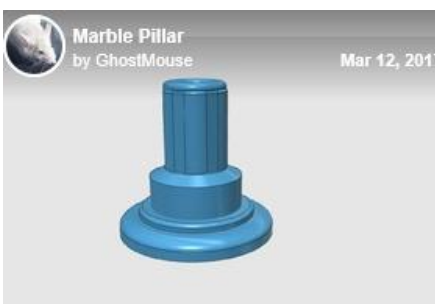
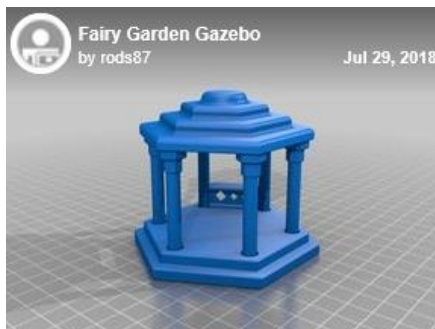
1. Fill planter to just below pot rim
2. With plants still in pots move them around until you find an arrangement you like
3. Take plants out of pots and transfer to Fairy Garden
4. Water in well and allow to drain
5. Smooth the soil surface and cover with decorative gravel and/or your fairy furniture
6. Periodically trim any leaves that die or are out of place
7. Depending on the temperature, lightly water once a week during the warmer months and every 2-3 weeks during the cooler periods

## Furnishing Your Garden

There are many hobby stores that you can buy generic bric-a-brac from to furnish your fairy garden, however with the library 3D printers you can custom make something special.

These designs were found on the Thingiverse website.

[www.thingiverse.com](http://www.thingiverse.com)



Job	3D Print Time	Cost
Fairy Gazebo	7 hours	\$5.45
Marble Pillar (marble not inc.)	9.5 Hours	\$8.25
19cm Door	10 hours	\$6.00
Stepping stones (set of 6)	2 hours	\$1.65