

How to Make a Japanese “Kokedama” Moss Ball by Leah Held

Materials Needed:

- Soil
- Excelerite (Available on Amazon.com)
- Peat Moss
- Sheet Moss
- Colored Nylon String - 4' + 2" or more to hang
- Shallow Bucket
- Scissors
- Spray Bottle for Water
- Plant(s) (shade loving, drought hardy, slow growing plants are best; also depends on location to be displayed)



Instructions:

1. In a shallow bucket, mix together 50% soil, 25% excelerite and 25% peat moss. Mix together well and add enough water so that it is mushy but not soupy.
2. Take a large handful of your soil mixture (depending on plants size) and shape it into a ball. You may need to add/squeeze out water or add soil/peat moss to your mix to make it the right consistency for shaping into a ball.
3. Check that your ball is ready for the next step by tossing it into the air. If it stays together, move on to Step 4. If your ball falls apart you need to keep working with your soil/water ratio.
4. Remove your plant(s) from its container and, as gently as possible, remove as much dirt as possible from the roots.
5. Place your thumbs together at the top of the ball and pull it apart into two halves. Place the roots of your plant(s) inside. Close your ball and add extra soil and water to help close and reshape your ball as needed.
6. Cut a piece of sheet moss to fit around your ball. Spray the sheet moss with water until moist.
7. Wrap the moss so that it covers the entire ball. If moist it will stick well enough for the next step.
8. Take your string and wrap your ball so that the moss will stay in place. Go crazy! There is no right or wrong way to do this part! You may want to use more than one color for extra impact!
9. Tie ends securely.
10. Loop a piece of string about 2 feet long (depending on how low or high you want your Kokedama to hang) through one of the crosshairs of string around the top of the ball and tie the ends.
11. Your Kokedama is finished! Hang your Kokedama indoors or out, being sure to water it frequently if misting, less often if soaking.

Watering your Kokedama: You can water your Kokedama by misting with a spray bottle or placing it in a bowl of water and letting it soak for 5-10 minutes. Squeeze out some of the excess water so it isn't dripping everywhere and you won't have to water it as often!