

Mary's Garden



Our Lady of La Salette

Mary's Sword of Sorrow, Our Lady's Tears,
Crown of Thorns, Our Lady's Rue

- John Stokes, 1963

Popular Plants for Indoor Dish Mary Gardens

East or West

Botanical Name	Religious Name	Common Name	Country	L T H Window
<i>Adiantum tenerum</i>	Lady's Hair	Maidenhair Fern	Mexico	L W H N,T
<i>Asparagus plum.</i>	Maiden's Hair	Asparagus Fern	S.Africa	P T A EW,N,T
<i>Begonia fuchsoid.</i>	Mary's Heart	Begonia	Brazil	P W A EW T
<i>Begonia heracl.</i>	Lady's Fringe	Star Begonia	Mexico	P W A EW T
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	Lady-of-Night	Lady-of-Night	C.America	L T H EW N,T
<i>Caladium (hybrid)</i>	Angel's Wings	Fancy Lf Caladium	Trop.Amer.	P W A EW N,T
<i>Calceolaria herb.</i>	Lady's Slipper	Pocketbook Plant	Chile	L C A EW
<i>Campanula isoph.</i>	Mary's Star	Star of Bethlehem	Italy	F C A S,EW
<i>Ceropegia woodii</i>	Rosary Vine	Heart Vine	Natal	P T D S,EW,N
<i>Chrysanth. frut.</i>	Mary's Gold	Boston Daisy	Canary Is.	F C A S
<i>Crassula rupest.</i>	Rosary Plant	Rosary Plant	S. Afrlca	F T A S,EW
<i>Cymbalaria mural.</i>	Tears of Mary	Kenilworth Ivy	Europe	P C A EW
<i>Echinocereus pent.</i>	Lady's Finger	Hedge-Hog Cactus	Mexico	F T D S
<i>Euphorbia splend.</i>	Christ's Thorn	Crown of Thorns	Madagasc.	F W A S,EW
<i>Fuchsia magellan.</i>	Lady's Eardrops	Fuchsia	Peru	L C A EW,N
<i>Jasminum offic.</i>	(Mary's Purity)	Jasmine	Persia	F C A S,EW
<i>Mammillaria elon.</i>	Lady's Finger	Gold Stars Cactus	Mexico	F T D S
<i>Nereum oleander</i>	Rose of Jericho	Oleander	Mediter.	F T A S,EW
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	Lady's Slipper	Orchid genus	Nepal	L T H N,T
<i>Passiflora caer.</i>	Passion Flower	Passion Flower	Brazil	F T A S,EW
<i>Pelargonum dom.</i>	Beautiful Lady	Geranium	S. Africa	F C A S EW
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	Lady-Palm	Lady-Palm	S. China	P T A EW
<i>Rhoeo discolor</i>	Christ-in-Cradl	Moses-in-Bulrushs	Mexico	P T A S,EW
<i>Rosmarinus offic.</i>	Mary's Bouquet	Rosemary	Mediter.	F T A S,EW
<i>Saintpaulia ion.</i>	Madonna	African Violet v.	Tanganiyk	P W A EW,N
<i>Saxifraga sarmen.</i>	Mary's Hair	Strawberry Geran.	China, Jap	F C A S,EW
<i>Scirpus cernuus</i>	Lady's Hair	Miniature Bulrush	E. Indies	P T H EW
<i>Selenicereus mac.</i>	Queen-of-Night	Queen-of-Night	Argentina	P T D EW
<i>Vinca minor</i>	(Virginity)	Pertwinkle C.	Europe	P C A EW,N
<i>Rosa (hybrids)</i>	Mary's Thorn	Miniature Rose	-	F T A S,EW

L - Light (Average intensity over normal day)

F - Full 4000 - 8000 foot candles - Direct South
P - Partial 1000 - 3000 " " - Direct East or West
L - Low 50 - 500 " " - Full North; Filtered Ea

T -Temperature

W - Warm 75 - 80 F daytime; 50 - 55 F night
C - Cool 55 - 60 F. " " ; 4 - 45 F "

H - Humidity

D - Dry 10-30% - Dry House
A - Average 30-60% - House with misting, water pans or ventilation
H - Humid 60-80% - Humid Terrariums Conservatory or Greenhouse

Indoor Window Location.

The light, temperature and humidity shown for each plant are those preferred for best growth as found in its native habitat. In practice plants are sufficiently adaptable to permit cultivation in one or more window locations in the average house, as indicated.

S - South Window - Full Sun, Warm, Dry
EW - East or West Window - Partial Sun, Temperate, Average humidity
N - North Window - Low Light, Cool, Average Humidity
T - Terrarium - Low or Partial light, Temperate, Humid

Suggested Mail Order Source For House Plants (specify small plants):
Logee's Greenhouses, 55 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239

INDOOR DISH MARY GARDEN PLANTING & CARE

Growth. Plants grow by manufacturing food (sugar and starch) from absorbed water, nutrients, carbon dioxide and light in daytime, and by utilizing this food at nights at lower temperatures, with absorption of oxygen.

Air provides carbon dioxide to plant leaves, oxygen to leaves and roots, and nitrogen (through the agency of water and soil bacteria) to the roots.

Soil provides plant roots with support, water, nutrients and air. Outdoors, fine clay soils are preferred where it is desired to retain and draw up moisture, and coarse sandy soils where it is desired to drain off moisture and let in air. Indoors, where watering can be controlled closely, a medium textured soil is desired which will retain moisture for at least a day and also permit good air penetration while moist. A good basic soil mixture for indoor dish gardens is 1/2 fine sand (salt free) and 1/2 milled sphagnum moss.

Nutrients required for plant growth can be provided in a water-soluble fertilizer supplied every several weeks during watering; in a slowly soluble dry fertilizer blended with the basic soil mix; or in organic loam, compost or humus mixed in with the basic soil mix in a proportion of 1/3. Nutrients include nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and, in lesser amounts, calcium, iron, sulphur and magnesium. Also required are trace elements, normally present in sufficient amounts in water, soil and the other nutrients: boron, zinc, manganese, copper, molybdenum, chromium, cobalt, nickel, aluminum and sodium.

Planting. Select a small figure of the Virgin or Virgin and Child and a dish or other container at least 3" deep, of a size suited to the figure. Decide whether you will place your garden in a north, east, south or west window, and, using the list of House Plants of Our Lady, above, choose and procure plants suitable for this location which can be composed in artistic and symbolical unity with the figure. Then place a 1/4" layer of charcoal chips or pellets at the bottom of the container for absorption of excess toxic amounts of nutrients or other salts which may accumulate. Fill with soil mixture to 5/6 the height of the container (to 1/2" below the rim of a 3" container), position the religious figure, and plant the plants, allowing a soil space around each of 1-1/2 times the diameter of its root mass. Firm the soils; water once; and keep in the shade for 3 days. Then move to the planned window location and tend daily.

Watering. Add water by filling the space fully from the top of the soil to the rim of the container whenever the soil is found to be dry on inspection at morning or early afternoon. When tapped with a hard object a container will respond with a "rap" when the soil is still moist below the surfaces and with a "ring" when it has dried. Inexpensive indicators are available to show soil moisture and dryness. Wash and brush off any insects with spray at sink.

Watching. The best available conditions of light, temperature and humidity in your house (and outdoors in warm weather) for your House Plants of Our Lady must be found by watching growth and making changes it is judged will help it. Favorable conditions will result in vigorous, healthy growth and blooms. Unfavorable conditions can be recognized as follows: insufficient light causes rapid but pale and spindly growth; low light, few blooms; and excessive light, burning of foliage (brown or white patches). Insufficient humidity and/or soil moisture causes wilting or drying of foliage; excessive humidity, flabby growth; excessive soil moisture, slow root growth or rotting of root tips (causing browning of foliage tips). Freezing usually kills; insufficient heat retards growth; and excessive heat produces distorted or accelerated growth.

Rest. Most plants require 8 to 10 weeks rest period each year, corresponding to the cold or dry periods in their native habitats. When plant growth slows and stops, reduce temperature, light, moisture and nutrients for 8 to 10 weeks. Then resume normal care for a new cycle of growth. Prune roots and shoots, as required at start of growth period to retain desired size.