

Cone Topiary Frame, Small & Large

Cone Topiary Frames are the perfect start to elegant indoor or outdoor topiaries. You can use them by either training vines to climb the frame, or by filling them with moss and planting directly into them. Used on their own, the frames also make intriguing garden sculptures.

Assembly

The Cone Topiary has a spiral finial that arrives unattached to the frame. Take the finial and screw it into the top of the cone.

Planting your Topiary

There are many varieties of vines that work to make a topiary. For potted topiaries, we recommend using English ivy for fast and lovely results. **Important:** English Ivy is invasive in some regions, so only use it in containers. Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) and jasmine (*Jasminium polyanthum*) are also good options. Select plants in 4" pots with long vines. (Given time to grow, one plant can cover the whole frame, but starting with two or three plants will cover the frame faster.)

Install the topiary frame in the garden or planter, inserting the legs into the soil for stability.

Vine-Covered Topiary

The simplest way to create a topiary is to arrange plants evenly around the base of the frame and plant them. Weave the vines onto the frame and loosely secure them with thread or green dental floss.

Moss-Filled Topiary

In this method, you fill the topiary with sphagnum moss and plant right into the moss. Soak the moss in water for 15 minutes or until it is completely saturated. Take a handful of moss, squeeze out the excess water, and start filling your frame. Continue until the entire frame is packed tightly with moist moss. If necessary, wrap thread or dental floss around the frame to help hold the moss in place.

Make holes in the moss and set in the plants, spacing them evenly. Cover the roots with moss, using hairpins to hold them in place if necessary. Lay the vines against the surface of the moss and secure with additional hairpins.

Be careful to not underwater or overwater your moss topiary. Check the moss daily, and only water it if it feels dry. Water thoroughly, making sure the water is penetrating the moss.

Care and Maintenance

As plants grow, train the new vines onto other parts of the frame or use scissors to remove them. This helps maintain the form of the topiary. Fertilize plants monthly with an all-purpose fertilizer.

Take your potted topiary indoors during winter months in cold climates. Before taking it inside, spray the plants with insecticidal soap two or three times, and then once more after it is inside, to prevent bringing aphids and other insect pests indoors. Keep it in a spot that gets adequate sunlight for your variety of vine. You can take it back outdoors again during the summer, once all danger of frost has passed.

The powder-coated steel frame is weather-resistant. However if the finish is nicked or scratched, use an exterior-grade metal paint to prevent rust.

For how-to articles on topiaries, please visit gardeners.com.

