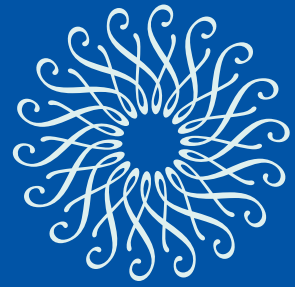


The Art of Kokedama Project



At a Glance:

Kokedama is the art and traditional practice of creating a living moss ball. This Japanese technique sometimes includes the use of *akadama*, a clay soil amendment, however orchids do best without this. At Longwood Gardens we use this technique to enhance our displays, including *Orchid Extravaganza*.

This handout was developed as a guide to assist you in making your own style of Kokedama with help from our Longwood experts.



What You Will Need:



Thick Twine



Sphagnum
Moss



Bowl of
Water



Thin Twine



Orchid Mix



Potted Orchid



Pantyhose/
Nylons

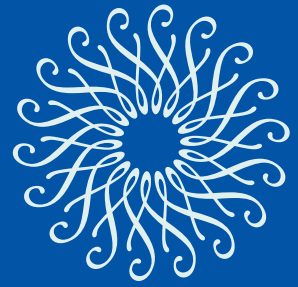


Sheet Moss



Fern Pins
(Optional)

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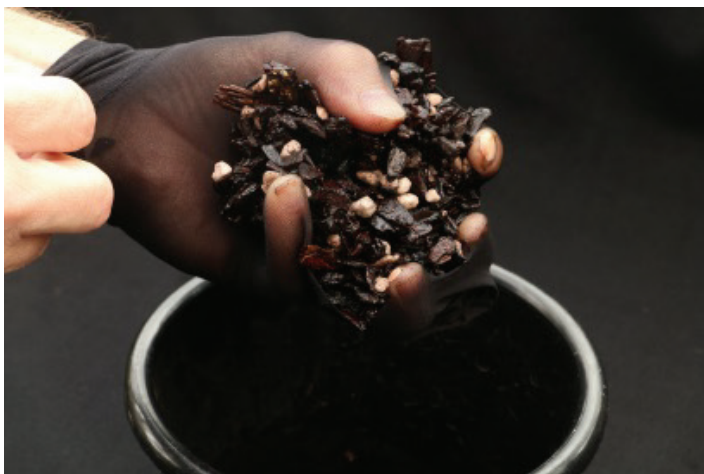
Step 1: Gather all of the materials needed for the project.



Step 2: Stretch out a nylon or pantyhose to be used to hold the orchid mix that will be the center of the Kokedama.



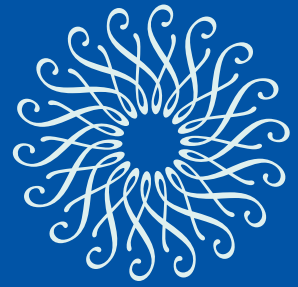
Step 3: Grab a handful of well-drained orchid mix using the stretched nylon.



Step 4: Use your hands to tie a knot into the nylon, form a semi-spherical shape and trim off any excess nylon.



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Step 5: Select the orchid you would like to use for this project and remove it from its container.



Step 6: Remove all of the orchid mix and/or *Sphagnum* that was within the container and any dead roots on the plant.



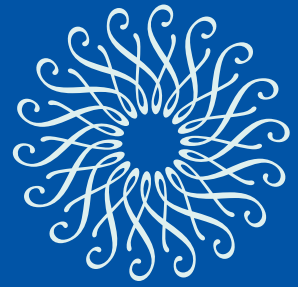
Step 7: Place the nylon incased orchid mix underneath the roots of the plant and wrap them to encircle it.



Step 8: (Optional) Hold the roots in place and wrap them with a fine twine which will eventually decompose over time.



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Step 9: Place the *Sphagnum* that will be used to cover the roots in a container, and moisten.



Step 10: Carefully take small clumps of the moistened *Sphagnum* and place them over the exposed roots.



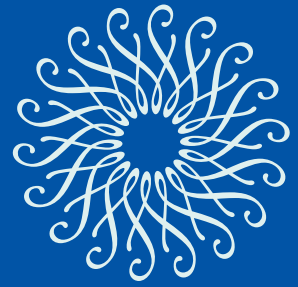
Step 11: Make sure to cover the entire root ball as this will be an area where future roots will grow.



Step 12: Press the moist *Sphagnum* to help firm the sphere and (optional) insert small fern pins through the *Sphagnum* and into the nylon of media to hold it in place.



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Step 13: Pre-moisten sheet moss and lightly press it with your hands to make it flexible.



Step 14: Encase the root ball with sheet moss and mold it into a covering for the spherical Kokedama.



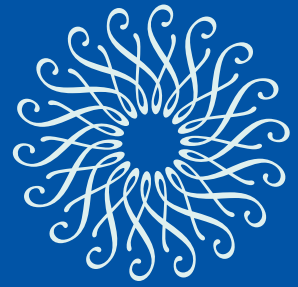
Step 15: Secure a thin twine by creating a loop and pulling it through, just below where the plant emerges from the moss.



Step 16: Start wrapping the ball with twine in a crisscrossing circular motion.



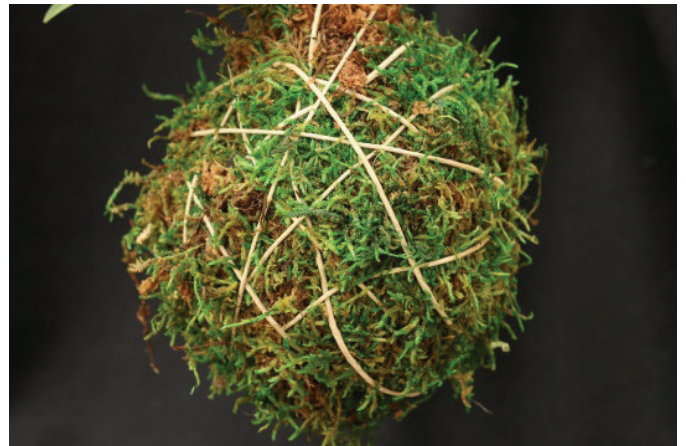
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Step 17: Make sure to cross-over the previous twine in order to increase the strength of the support.



Step 18: Once you have secured the moss ball, tie in a final knot and remove any excess twine.



Step 19: Cut an additional piece of twine to use as a hanger for your Kokedama and trim any excess.



Step 20: Place your Kokedama in an area where it can be watered frequently and where you want to show off your hard-work!

