

Making a Hypertufa Planter

Portland cement

peat moss

perlite or vermiculite

water

gloves, goggles, mask

large mixing pan

mold of choice (**This amount makes enough for large bowl**)

plastic film to line the mold - or - oil to lubricate

measuring container such as gallon pitcher

Recipe (this example uses a gallon container)

1 gal cement

1 ½ gal peat moss

1 ½ gal perlite or vermiculite

Mix dry ingredients well wearing goggles and mask, then add water and mix until "meat loaf" consistency.

Have your mold lined with plastic or sprayed with lubricant, such as Pam.

Pack the mixture into the mold. I use the inside of my mold so that this container will be easy to wrap & bag & cure.

Pack the mixture onto the bottom and sides making them about 1½" to 2" thick depending on the size of your planter. (the smaller the container, the thinner the sides can be)

(If the mixture seems to get too dry, just mist it slightly with water.)

Put your project into a plastic bag and tie or seal shut. This creates a humid environment for it to cure.

Set in shade for 24-48 hrs.

After 24-48 hrs, check to see if it has hardened. You may remove your project by pulling evenly on plastic, then peel plastic off.

* If you want to texture the outside, do so now. Use a wire brush or rasp or anything you want to make texture that you desire. If lines created by plastic look great, then re-wrap in plastic bag and set again in shade for 10 days minimum.

Re-open and you are finished. Drill a hole in the bottom with a masonry drill bit, then rinse repeatedly over a week or so with garden hose. You may spray with diluted vinegar solution to speed process. (Or leave outside in rain for a month.)

Plant it up! You are done!

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