

# A METHOD FOR COOLING A TERRARIUM

by David Guerra

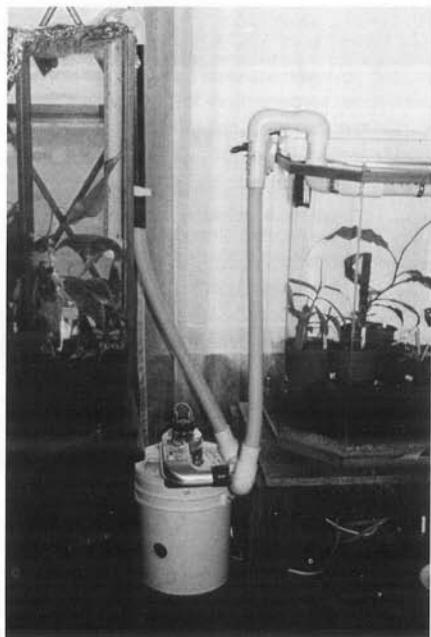
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Using a common greenhouse technique, I have developed a way for terrarium growers (such as myself) to enjoy the benefits of sunlight while still maintaining an average temperature range of 85 degrees to 95 degrees F in most cases. I applied this method here in southern California using a south facing window. In the terrarium, I have species of *Nepenthes*, *Cephalotus*, *Darlingtonia*, *Heliophora minor*, *Sarracenia* and *Drosera* growing in the temperature range stated above. The *Heliophora* and *Nepenthes* (highland species) are grown in a separate, six-sided terrarium with the dimensions of 40 inches tall by 25 inches across, with a soil depth of 8 inches. The *Heliophora* are growing in a separate pot of live sphagnum.

I constructed a miniature swamp cooler to accommodate both terrariums using only one thermostat. Basically, the swamp cooler is a five gallon Contico container into which I placed a submersible pump that remains on the bottom. About three inches from the bottom, I drilled two 1 5/8 inch holes parallel to each other on the bucket sides. Two sprinkler heads fit in the holes which spray a wettable fiber pad. Next, a 3 inch hole was made in the bucket lid and I taped an appliance fan in place. A vacuum cleaner hose was then attached to the fan output which led to the 1 1/2 inch pipe (PVC) that was placed into the top of each terrarium. I drilled 5/8 inch holes about 2 inches apart to allow cool air to reach the entire length of the terrariums. The pictures accompanying this article should clarify the above description.



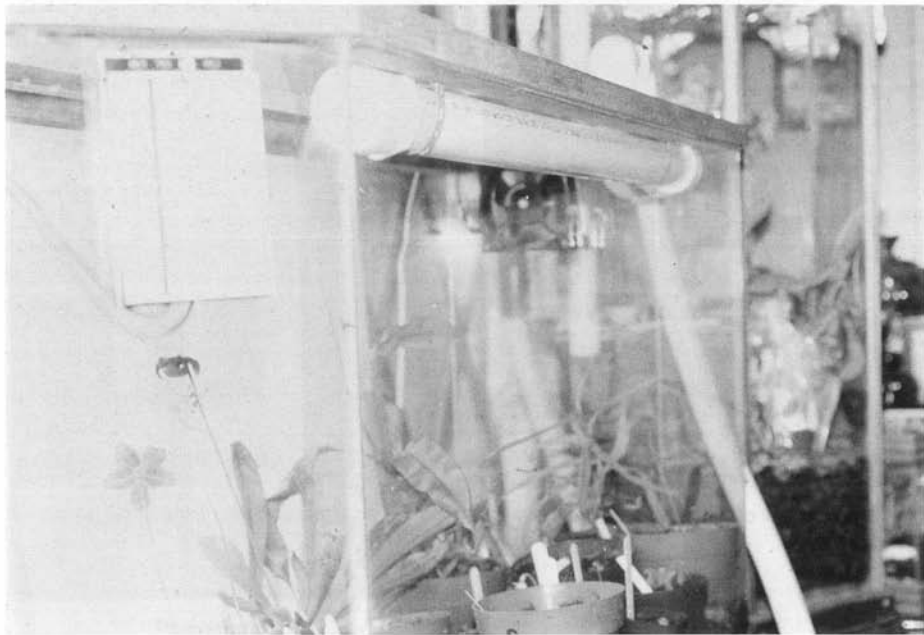
Front view of set up with author.



Front view of bucket cooling system.



Cooling Part—see text for details.



Rear view of tank with air manifold at top.