



Soil Minions

User guide



Soilminions are little soil heroes that break down organic matter! With this kit, discover their world and their role in nature.



3x Boxes



Prepare a small glass of water and let it sit for 4–5 minutes; the chlorine will evaporate and the temperature will adjust.



Bags of substrate and food



1/4 ml spoon and pipette



Box of springtails



This Guide



- 1– Pour and spread the packet of substrate into the terrarium
 - 2– Sprinkle a level spoonful of food over the substrate
 - 3– Using the pipette, moisten the terrarium without flooding it
- Bravo! The terrarium is now ready for the springtails

1



2



3





- 4 – Transfer the springtails into the terrarium
- 5 – Close it up and start observing them!

4



5



Maintaining the terrarium

Springtails, like all living beings, breathe and need oxygen. The container should be opened at least once a week.

The substrate is good for one year and must be kept moist. The terrariums are airtight, water addition should be light.



Feed once a week with one spoonful for normal growth, or twice a week for faster growth. Always wait until the food, as well as any mushrooms or molds that appear, are completely eaten before adding more. Once the packet is finished, you can use rice or small pieces of cat kibble.

When you no longer wish to maintain the terrarium, empty it into a garden, flower bed, compost bin, or vegetable patch. The springtails will continue bringing their benefits to nature.



Try out different substrates!

The two other terrariums provided let you test the springtails with substrates collected from your environment.

Note if they are more active in a certain substrate, compare their reproduction, in which substrate do the Soilminions move around the most?

As you observe, note the similarities and differences between the soils. Check out the comparative study on our website to help guide your exploration.

Use the attached observation chart.



Discover and observe the richness of the soil

Discover the Soil Quality Card, a simple method for everyone to explore and understand what living soil is.



All you need is a pencil or a phone and a small garden trowel.

Use the printable PDF card or the online version on www.soilminions.com

Soil Quality Card

SOIL QUALITY CARD

Become a Soil Quality Expert!

www.soilminions.com

Terrarium identification		Création date		Substrat Type		Location	
Observer	Maintenance date	Springtail density*	Quantity added		Observations and comments		
			food (ml)**	water (ml)			
<i>Alex.1</i>	<i>01/02/2029</i>	L M H O ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	<i>1 spoon</i> <i>0,25ml</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Example: Presence of larger individuals, food consumed more quickly</i>		
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OBSERVATION TABLE



*L M H O :

Low, Medium, High Density, Overcrowded. Check your estimate based on these examples:

L

Low



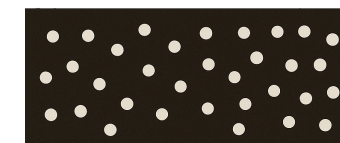
M

Medium



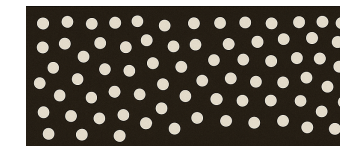
H

High



O

Overcrowded



Overcrowded terrarium ?!

Using a small teaspoon, transfer some of the springtail substrate into a new terrarium to test a different type of soil!

**A level Soil Minions spoon = 1/4ml (0,25ml)