

## Marimo Moss Ball Culture

**Description:** Marimo moss ball is the common name for a spherical form of *Aegagropila linnaei*, a species of aquatic green filamentous algae. Marimo is also known as *Cladophora* ball, which is the previous genus before the species was returned to genus *Aegagropila*. Marimo moss balls are primarily indigenous to Iceland, Japan and northern Europe. The spherical form of this algae species developed in response to wave action & other environmental factors in the shallow, sandy lake bottom habitat.

**Lighting & Location:** Marimo grows best in low or medium indirect light. Direct sunlight should be avoided, as the water in a glass container can become too warm. Direct sunlight also has the potential of scorching or discoloring the moss ball.

**Temperature:** Although Marimo is native to cold water habitats, it readily adapts to typical room temperatures of 17 C to 23 C.

**Nutrients:** Marimo requires very little in the way of nutrients. The nutrients contained in agricultural runoff have proven detrimental to moss ball colonies in their native habitats. A small amount of calcium carbonate is beneficial to Marimo culture. This mineral can be provided by placing eggshells, sea shells or chalk in the moss ball vase or a supplementary water container.

**Water movement:** Although this is not a requirement for Marimo culture, a small air stone can be placed in the moss ball container to provide modest water circulation and visual interest. The water movement can help in retaining the spherical shape of the moss ball. Changing the water occasionally will prevent a murky appearance.

**Containers:** Marimo can be grown in an aquariums, fish bowl or glass vase. The container should be open at the top in order to provide carbon dioxide from the surrounding air. Aquarium gravel can be placed on the bottom of the container for ornamentation.

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