



Hanging Baskets

Follow these steps to make and care for a hanging basket!

Making a Hanging Basket

The first decision you need to make is whether your basket will be in a sunny or shady location. Then choose the plants that you want to put in your basket. Here are some plants we suggest for your basket:

Sun Baskets:

Anagallis, Bacopa, Bidens, Brachycome, Calibrachoa, Cuphea, Geraniums, Heliotrope, Lobelia, Lotus Vine, Petunia, Trailing Snapdragon, Supertunia, Thunbergia, and/or Verbena.

Shade Baskets:

Asparagus Fern, Fibrous Begonias, Tuberous Begonias, Calceolaria, Coleus, Fuschia, Impatiens, Lamium, Lobelia, Lysimachia (Creeping Jenny), Mimulus, Torenia, Tradescantia.

With these plants in mind don't forget to have a little fun, experiment with different plants and different combinations. You never know when you will come up with a winner.

Choosing the Right Soil and Fertilizer

There are many soils that you can use for hanging baskets. We recommend Keefers Hanging Basket Mix or our own David Hunters Potting Soil. This is a mix of Peat Moss, Perlite, and a starter fertilizer. We also recommend adding a slow-release fertilizer like SmartCote™ 14-14-14 into the soil before planting. One application at planting time will last the entire season.



You are Ready to Plant

Now you can plant your basket. For plastic hanging baskets fill the main part of the pot with soil and place plants in the top of the basket. Plant the taller growing plants in the middle and trailing plants around the edges. For baskets with holes in the sides or Moss baskets you can plant trailing plants along the side of the basket. You can plant two or three separate layers, with four to six plants per layer. Once the sides of the basket are complete, plant the taller growing plants in the top. After you finish planting be sure to give your basket a thorough watering.

Caring for your Hanging Basket

Hanging baskets require a little bit of care during the growing season. You will need to provide enough water and fertilizer to ensure that it grows well and remove dead flowers to encourage more blooms. You should also monitor for insects and other diseases.

Watering

The most important thing to remember is to water the basket on a regular basis. Hanging baskets require more water than other plants in containers. This is because all sides of the basket are exposed. During hot dry spells they require water every day, sometimes twice a day. A general rule is to water the basket when the top inch of soil has become dry. Continue adding water until it is pouring out the bottom of the basket. There should be good drainage in the bottom of the basket to ensure that the roots do not drown.



Fertilizing

Plants get most of their nutrients from the soil through their roots. Watering can wash the nutrients away. In general hanging baskets benefit from frequent feeding. It is best to use a slow release fertilizer that breaks down over a period of time rather than releasing all at once. We recommend SmartCote™ 14-14-14 Hanging Basket fertilizer. One application breaks down over a 6 month period so one application lasts the entire summer.



Removing Dead Flowers

You should remove dead flowers from the plants to encourage more flowers. If dead flowers are left on the plants, they consume energy by developing seeds instead of making more flowers. Removing the dead flowers encourages the plant to produce more flowers.

Pests and Insects

You may experience problems with pest or insects. The insects and pests you might have the most trouble with those that fly or those that drop from trees overhead. A healthy, well-watered, well-fed basket is less likely to have insect or pest problems. If you notice and pests or diseases on your hanging basket, bring a piece of the plant in a sealed bag to one of our qualified staff and we would be happy to have a look and determine if there is a solution.

