

HANGING BASKET

Use a Big Hanging Planter Basket,

“Bigger is better.” The larger soil volume will accommodate larger, lusher plants. The larger the basket or pot, the more attention it will attract; one large container is more impressive than two or three smaller planters. Larger baskets may require less frequent watering, too.

Wire Mesh Baskets are best

Use a mesh style basket rather than a solid plastic one. Hanging baskets are viewed from below. A mesh basket will provide a luxurious look below. (If you use a solid plastic container, you will see the container when you look up at it. But, you will not need to use liners..)

Use Good Quality Planting Soil

Use a light weight, soil-free potting mix for container plants. Look for a mix that includes water holding crystals. A slow release fertilizer should be added to ensure an ongoing supply of nutrients.

Use a Natural Fiber Liner for Mesh Baskets

Natural fiber liners such as moss, coir or coco fiber help support the soil evenly. They also insulate the soil to keep the plants' roots cool during hot, sunny weather. Natural liners also look nicer than bare plastic. At the end of the season, natural liners can be added to the compost pile. Use a plastic liner with the natural liner. Inside the natural liner, add a layer of plastic sheeting such as a plastic trash bag cut open to fit. Make drain holes in the bottom. The plastic slows evaporation through the sides of the basket and keeps the soil moister. (A solid plastic pot would not need this liner.)

Plant Right Through the Sides

The beauty of a hanging mesh basket is that the array of plants that are displayed not only from the top but also by planting through the sides of the container. Insert each plant through a slit cut in the fiber and plastic liners.

How to Water Hanging Baskets

Water as needed to keep the soil evenly moist. Use your finger to check if the soil is moist or dry, or check the weight of the container. By the end of summer you may need to water twice a day. A watering wand with adjustable water flow is best. These attach to your garden hose and have a fingertip shut-off so you don't spill water everywhere.

If your hanging container dries out, it will be difficult to remoisten. Set the pot or basket up to its rim in a container of tepid water (add a drop of dishwashing soap to the water) for several hours or overnight so it can soak up the moisture. Lift it out, let it drain, then rehang.

Fertilizer for Hanging Basket Flowers

Use slow release fertilizer granules in your soil mix, also use a water soluble fertilizer every other watering. Use the weaker dilution rate from the label directions. An occasional topdressing with compost or worm castings can also be beneficial.

Groom the Hanging Basket Plants

Deadhead (remove faded flowers) and trim off discolored foliage regularly to keep the flowers looking their best. This also allows you an opportunity to inspect for any pest or disease problems and catch them early.

Use a Strong Support Bracket

A hanging basket container full of wet soil and plants is extremely heavy. Make sure it is secure on a sturdy bracket. Using a swivel hook allows you to rotate it to provide even sun exposure. A pulley system to raise and lower the basket can also be helpful.

Hanging basket containers are unique in their appeal and in the challenges they present to gardeners. Following the planting and care instructions in this guide will help you select plant and maintain your hanging baskets for a lovely display of flowers all summer.

Tips for growing your own basket

1. Select flowers with similar growing conditions for large hanging baskets. A variety of color and texture is appealing but will soon become an unsightly mess if the plants don't all require the same light, water and soil conditions.
2. Choose the location for your hanging basket first and then pick flowers based on the amount of sunlight that will be available. Different species of flowers require different levels of sunlight, and if you don't choose plants correctly they won't thrive.
3. Consider the color of the basket. The flowers should complement the color of the container and things in the surrounding area.
4. Plant only one type of flower the basket is small. If you only have room for two or three plants, the arrangement will be much more attractive if they are similar in size and shape. Mix colors to add variety to the basket.
5. Mix trailing or vining types of flowers with an upright type of flower when your container is large enough to accommodate it. Placing the tall flowers in the center and surrounding them by vines hanging down the outside of the basket adds an attractive dimension to the display.

Enjoy Your Hanging Basket!