

Creating Moss Hanging Baskets

Moss baskets are always beautiful, but a personalized one that you've made yourself is even better. This list of tips & tricks is devised to help you along the way!

PLANTING A MOSS-LINED WIRE BASKET

1. Choose a wire basket frame. These are available in sizes from 25-35cm (8 - 14") across, as well as half baskets for hanging against walls. Remember, the larger the basket, the less quickly it will dry out.
2. Lay moss into the bottom 1/3 to 1/2 of the basket. Then cut a circle of plastic & lay it over the moss to act as a water reservoir. Even better, attach a plastic tray to the bottom of the wire basket (on the outside) before you begin.
3. Use GARDENWORKS Hanging Basket Mix to fill your basket. This contains water retaining polymers which will swell up with water & hold moisture in the basket longer so it does not dry out so quickly in the hot summer.
4. Add a handful of slow release fertilizer, such as Smartcote 14-14-14 to your potting soil & add the soil to the bottom of the wire basket, to about 10cm (4") deep.
5. In order to prepare your plants properly, water them thoroughly. The planting process can be hard on the roots of the plants, & it is better if they are moist throughout.
6. Gently pull wires apart. Pull back the moss & poke the roots of the bedding plant through the hole. Place the moss around the roots & bend the wires back the way they were.
7. As you work your way up the basket, add more moss lining & soil. At the top there is room to place plants with larger root balls, such as fancy begonias grown from tubers or 4"-pot plants for instant colour.
8. After planting, water the basket well with a solution of GARDENWORKS transplanter fertilizer 5-15-5 (the high middle number is for transplanting). Keep the basket under cover until the beginning of May.

STANDARD RECIPE FOR A MIXED HANGING BASKET

- Use an upright geranium in the centre of the basket.
- Plant two ivy geraniums in opposite corners.
- Plant two trailing fuchsias in the two remaining corners.
- In the four spaces left along the sides use trailing lobelia or other "basket stuffers" described in the accompanying list.

GENERAL TIPS FOR HANGING BASKETS

The key to success with any hanging basket or other container is care after planting. Do not allow your container to dry out. During hot weather, it may be necessary to water in the morning & in the evening. Because of this frequent watering, all the nutrients will be quickly leached out of the soil. Therefore, fertilize often with GARDENWORKS 15-30-15. Half strength every second week is ideal.

SELECTING YOUR BASKET STUFFERS

☼=Sun ○=Part-shade ●=Shade ☼=Flowers (followed by colour and/or description)

- Aparagus fern (*Asparagus sprengeri*) ●○ Ferny light green foliage
- Black-eyed-susan (*Thunbergia alata*) ☼○☼ Yellow or orange with black eye
- Browallia* ○●☼ Blue or white. Happiest during the warmest months
- Campanula isophylla* ☼☼ Blue or white miniature bells. Can be tricky!
- Chilean Fan Flower (*Scaevola*) ☼○☼ Pale blue. Interesting formation
- Cigar plant (*Cuphea*) ☼○●☼ Orange-red
- Creeping jenny (*Lysimachia*) ☼○☼ Yellow flowers in drooping spikes
- Creeping zinnia (*Sanvitalia*) ☼☼ Golden zinnia-like flowers
- Dahlberg daisy (*Dyssodia tenuifolia*) ☼☼ Golden yellow daisies
- Felicia (*Felicia amelloides*) ☼☼ Blue daisy-like flowers
- Fibrous begonias (*Begonia semperflorens*) ☼○●☼ Pink, white, peach
- Fuchsia (*Fuchsia x hybrida*) ●○☼ Many combinations of pink, red, white & orange - try upright fuchsias in the tops of baskets
- Gazanias* ☼☼ Many sunny colours
- Geranium (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) ☼○☼ Red, pink, salmon, white
- Gold rush (*Steirodiscus*) ☼○☼ Yellow daisy-like
- Gold coin (*Odontospermum or Asterdiscus*) ☼☼ Gold
- Helichrysum* ☼○ Fuzzy grey, variegated or lime green foliage
- Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*) ☼○☼ Purple scented blooms
- Ice Plant (*Lampranthus multiradiatus*) ☼☼ Many colours - a succulent
- Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*) ●○☼ Pink, red, purple & white
- Ivy geraniums (*Pelargonium peltatum*) ☼○☼ Red, pink, mauve & white
- Kenilworth ivy (*Cymbalaria muralis*) ●○☼ Violet-like flowers
- Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*) ☼○●☼ Blue & reddish purple
- Lotus vine (*Lotus berthelotii*) ☼○☼ Flame red. Delicate feathery foliage
- Monkey Flower (*Mimulus hybrids*) ☼○☼ Many colours, often spotted
- Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*) ☼○☼ Oranges & reds - try Alaska, the variegated form!
- Nepeta (*Glechoma hederacea* 'Variegata') ☼○ Variegated green & white foliage
- Petunias (*Petunia x hybrida*) ☼☼ Every colour in the rainbow
- Pocketbook Plant (*Calceolaria*) ☼○☼ Yellow or orange pockets
- Polka dot plant (*Hypoestes*) ☼○ Pink or white spots on leaves
- Poor man's orchid (*Schizanthus*) ☼○☼ Many pastel shades - beautiful
- Silver nettle vine (*Lamiasrum*) ☼○● Silver & green foliage
- Silver brocade (*Artemisia*) ☼ Fuzzy silver foliage
- Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus*) ●○
- Sweet potato vine (*Solanum*) ☼☼ Delicate white flowers
- Verbena* ☼☼ Red, purple, pink & white



Creating Patio Planters

Many city residents have limited space so they plant in containers on their patios, balconies, windowsills & roof tops to expand their growing space. It is a fabulous opportunity to be creative as well as resourceful. Here are some ways to set up your containers & choose appropriate plants.

THE SITE

Before you purchase plants, assess the area you have for containers. Is it sunny? Shady? A little of both? A sunny area has more than 6 hours of sun. Afternoon sun is hotter. A shady area is a site without direct sunlight. Anything else is partially sunny. Check the listing of sun-loving plants & shade-loving plants.

SPACE & TYPE OF CONTAINER

How much space do you have? Determine what type of container would suit the sight you have chosen. Give some thought to whether you would like only annuals & perennials. If you want to include small trees or shrubs as you may require a deeper container for the roots. Containers can be made of cedar, plastic, clay or even stone aggregate and can be any shape. It is best to choose a container with drainage, otherwise it hard to determine the correct amount of watering needed.

SOIL MIX

It is important to purchase a mix for container use, such as GARDENWORKS Planter Box Mix or GARDENWORKS Hanging Basket Mix. This mix has the correct combination of peat, perlite & compost. Also remember that these mixes do not contain any fertilizer. For the best results, mix in some Smartcote™ 14-14-14 before planting. This slow-releasing fertilizer will help feed your plants during the growing season.

SUMMER CARE OF PATIO PLANTERS

WATERING - Check to see if your planter requires water by inserting your finger in the soil. The first inch should be dry & the rest moist. If the soil is drier than this, water thoroughly (until water comes out of the bottom).

FERTILIZING - Apply GARDENWORKS 15-30-15 or 20-20-20 every other week to encourage good strong growth & colourful flowers. **Dead heading** - This is simply the process of removing dead flowers to encourage more blooms. Do this task routinely on all annuals.

WINTER CARE OF PATIO PLANTERS

Once summer blooming annuals have faded they can be replaced with plants for winter interest. When frosts are forecast, make sure pots are not heavily watered so freezing soil does not expand & damage the container. If possible move the container into a sheltered area out of the cold wind. If the container is too heavy to move, wrap the base with a small amount of burlap to insulate the pots & roots.

CHOOSING PLANTS There is no need to limit yourself to summer annuals there is an endless assortment of plants suitable for container gardens. Try intermixing small evergreen shrubs & vines with annuals. Your container will be a success if you keep in mind the following 3 points:

1. The type of exposure the plants like
2. The eventual size & shape of each plant
3. The colour, texture & shape of the flowers & foliage

(I = indoor plant, A = annual, P = perennial)

SUN-LOVING PLANTS

African daisy (A)	Alyssum (A)	Aloe (I)
Artemisia (A&P)	Balsam (A)	Canna (A&P)
Celosia (A)	Dahlias (A)	Dianthus (A&P)
Dracaena (A)	Eucalyptus (A)	Euphorbia (P)
Euryops (A)	Fescue (P)	Gazania (A)
Geraniums (A&P)	Helichrysum (A)	Heliotrope (A)
Hens & chicks (P)	Lotus vine (A)	Marigold (A)
New Guinea impatiens (A)	Nicotiana (A)	Petunia (A)
Portulaca (A)	Salvia (A)	Sedum (P)
Shasta daisy (A)	Snapdragon (A)	Swan River daisy (A)
Thyme (A)	Tradescantia (I)	Verbena (A)

SHADE PLANTS

Begonia (A)	Bergenia (P)	Bromeliads (I)
Caladiums (I)	Coleus (A)	Fuschias (A)
Heuchera (P)	Impatiens (A)	Lamium (P)
Lobelia (A)	Mimulus (A)	Potato vine (A)
Spider plant (I)		

THREE-TIER PLANTING Many very simple designs use only 3 kinds of plants. One forms the centre or backbone of the container, the next is a little shorter than that, and the third is represented by short plants that decorate the rim of the pot, & sometimes hang or trail down.

TEXTURE There are three main textures in plants; bold (like a big banana leaf), feathery (like a fern) & spiky (like a yucca). It's a good idea to use different textures in your containers, as they show each other off when in contrast.

FOLIAGE When choosing the colour scheme of your patio planter, remember that foliage can add a whole new dimension!

BRONZE FOLIAGE

Ajuga (P)	Begonia (A)	Dracaena (A)
Hens and chicks (P)	Heuchera (P)	Sedum (P)
Snapdragon (A)		

LIGHT-FOLIAGE

Artemisia (A&P)	Fescue (P)	Helichrysum (A)
Lotus vine (A)		



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