

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

When choosing your plants, consider light requirements and where your hanging basket will be displayed. The design principle of thrillers, fillers, and spiller still applies; not to mention complimentary textures & colours.

Popular hanging basket classics include Bacopa, Dasiy, Calibrachoa, Geranium, Heliotrope, Fuchsia, Lobelia, Petunia, Sweet Alyssum, Sweet potato vine, and Verbena.