

Making a Moss Basket

A hanging basket overflowing with a colourful assortment of flowering annuals and foliage plants is a delight to behold and you can be especially proud if you have made it yourself. These days, with so many plants to choose from, the combinations are endless. You can make your basket a rainbow riot using every colour in the spectrum or make it with a quiet blend of soft pastels. An all white hanging basket positively glows on moonlit summer nights and the addition of fragrant plants heightens the senses all the more. You can also create hanging baskets for fall and winter, using winter pansies, winter flowering heathers, evergreen groundcovers and trailing ivy. Take your spent summer basket and fill it with evergreen boughs and berried branches and you've made an enormous Christmas arrangement to hang at your front door.

recipe for a moss basket

The advantage of a moss basket is that it is planted all up and down its sides as well as on top, forming a huge round ball of colour!

ingredients

- 1 ... 14" hanging basket frame
- 1 ... bag PLANTER BOX MIX
- 1 ... bag sphagnum moss
- 1 ... pkg 14-14-14 fertilizer
- 1 ... 4" zonal geranium or non-stop begonia
- 1 ... 4" ivy geranium or trailing begonia
- 20-25 ... assorted 2" 'basket stuffers'
- 1 ... 30cm (12") plastic saucer.

just moss

Environmentally friendly-harvested from conservation controlled, regenerating moss fields. Holds more water for healthier growth- a 350mm (14") liner holds up to 3 litres of water.

directions

1. Line bottom of basket with good thick layer of moss extending up sides of basket about 5cm (2").
2. Place saucer in bottom of basket, on top of moss.
3. Add PLANTER BOX MIX up to the same level as the moss & sprinkle in 1 tbsp of 14-14-14.
4. Place in first layer of plants, inserting roots sideways through wire.
*There will be 3 layers of plants with 6-8 plants per layer. Stagger layers of plants so they're not growing over top of each other.
5. Add another layer of moss, PLANTER BOX MIX, 14-14-14 & plants.
6. When you reach about (5cm) 2" from the top, place the last layer of moss, soil, fertilizer & plant the upright zonal geranium, ivy geranium & remaining basket stuffers on top.
7. Attach the wire hanger, then hang, water & enjoy your new basket.

If you select plants suited to the light conditions in which your basket is to be placed and you feed, water & maintain it well, it will reward you with a long season of bloom lasting well into fall.

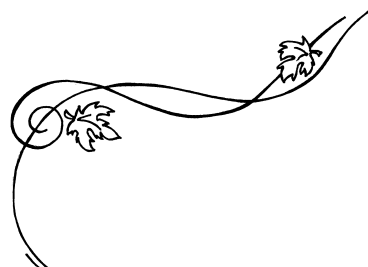
plant suggestions

sun lovers

ANY combination of some or all of these plants adding up to 20 or 25.

- upright zonal geranium in 4" pot
- ivy geranium or mini cascade geranium in 4" pot
- million bells
- bacopa 'snowflake'
- fragrant trailing heliotrope
- calceolaria
- supertunia/surfinia
- petunia
- viscaria
- swedish ivy

- brachycome (swan river daisy)
- trailing verbena 'temari', 'tapien' & 'babylon'
- lotus vine
- bidens
- nemesia 'confetti'
- helichrysum 'silver licorice', 'limelight' & 'variegated'
- nepeta
- lamium
- lobelia
- and many many more!



shady corner

TRY ANY combination of some or all of these plants adding up to 20 or 25.

rex begonia
non-stop begonia
trailing begonia
fibrous begonia
impatiens
double impatiens
fuchsias
mimulus
schizanthus
streptocarpella
violets or pansies
browallia
lobelia
lamium
swedish ivy
ferns
ivy
nepeta



caring for hanging baskets **watering**

Consistent watering is very important for maintaining healthy hanging baskets. How often you water depends on the weather and the location of your basket. If it is hung under an overhang or roof it will not even receive the benefit of rainwater & so will depend entirely on you for moisture. Hung out in the open during hot, dry, summer weather, the basket may need water twice a day. In cool rainy weather check the basket's weight by lifting it slightly from the bottom...if it feels light water it, if it's heavy leave & check again the next day!

When you water, apply enough water so you begin to see it running out the bottom of the basket. Stop watering, let run through until dripping and then water again until running through once more. Your basket will then be thoroughly watered. Make sure the water is not just running down the sides of the basket. If it is, the basket has become a little too dry and will have to be brought down & soaked with a larger saucer underneath until it is completely saturated. Don't hang it up again until it is.

...remember...

the worst thing you can do to a hanging basket is to let it dry out completely!!
It will never again retain its former splendour.

feeding

You added 14-14-14 slow release fertilizer (lasts approx. 2 months) when you planted your hanging basket.

But by the time July arrives you may want to top dress the basket with a little more (1-2 tbsp).

You can also begin to supplement feed with a blossom boosting fertilizer such as PLANT PROD 15-30-15 water soluble plant food or ALASKA MOR-BLOOM 0-10-10 every 10-14 days.



maintaining

- Remove faded flowers as they appear to encourage new blooms on flowering annuals.
- Trimming back overgrown trailing plants will force them to put on new growth and help keep your basket looking fresh and new throughout the season.

buying a maple leaf basket?

If you've no time or inclination to make your own hanging baskets you can always buy one ready made! They come in several forms from small plastic baskets thru large rectangular wooden ones to huge moss baskets. These baskets have been planted by professionals and grown in greenhouses under optimum growing conditions. They will usually be in or near full bloom so they will provide instant colour as soon as they are hung up at your home. It is recommended that you feed your basket right away with slow-release 14-14-14 and then around the end of June begin watering in a bloom boosting fertilizer every 10 to 14 days for the duration of the summer. Follow the above instructions for watering and maintaining your basket.



maple leaf
garden centres

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