

## Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets can be made of wire, cane, ceramics or plastic. They can vary in price depending on size and style. You may consider constructing your own 'basket' from a plastic container or similar type of thing to give the required effect, for example a plastic milk container. Ensure that whatever you use is safe and will not fall on a passer-by. Hanging baskets and suspended containers full of plants can be heavy and will cause damage if not secure.

The plants used for hanging baskets need not be expensive and you can grow them yourself. The best effect is obtained from trailing plants that can be planted around the top and through the side of the basket. Trailing Petunias, Surfinias, Geraniums, Lobelia and Nasturtiums will look delightful. Other colourful plants like Fuchsia also look good.

### What do we need to start?

Hanging Basket(s)

Basket liner(s), moss, fibre, or pair of tights

Potting compost

Slow-release plant food granules

A cut circle of plastic or small plastic bag

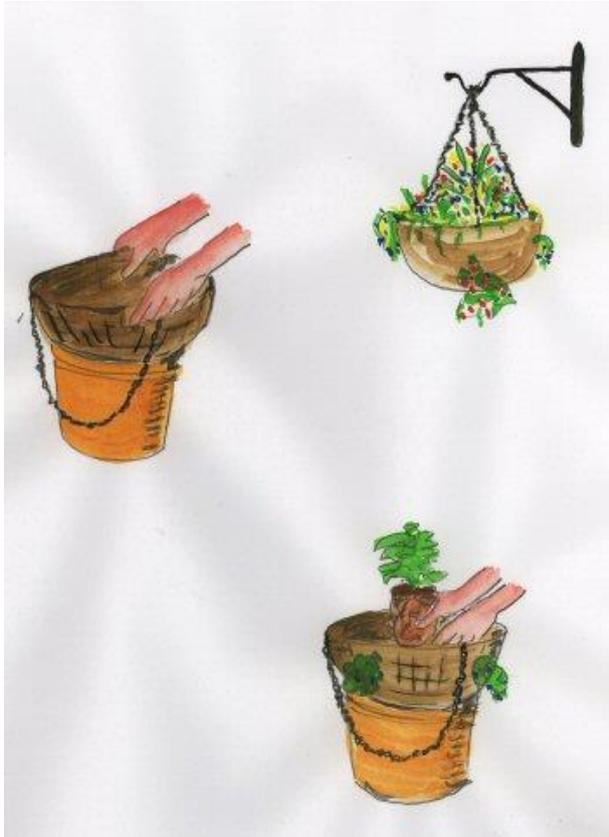
Plants to fill basket

A pint or half litre plastic bottle

Time - 30 to 60 minutes depending on the number, size and style of baskets



## Instructions:



1. Before you start, support the basket on a large plastic flowerpot to make the job of filling and decorating easier. Line the basket with either a purpose made fibre liner, moss or a pair of old tights; you can also cut and fit an old woollen garment. Cut a circle from a plastic compost bag or similar and place it in the bottom of the basket, this will help to retain water.

2. Half fill the basket with moist, but not completely wet, potting compost and place a few trailing plants - lobelia etc through holes cut in the side of the lining material. Continue to fill the basket mixing some granules of plant food with the compost.

3. Complete the basket planting with suitable plants that will add height and colour to the decoration; a fuchsia is excellent for this.

4. Finally cut the bottom off a half litre or similar sized clear plastic bottle and place the uncapped end securely in the top of the basket. This will help when watering the basket and when giving the occasional liquid feed.

5. When the basket is planted up, protect it from the weather for a week or two before you hang it outside for the summer. Once the plants are established and have been 'hardened-off' the main task is watering - twice a day during hot dry periods. Never let hanging baskets dry out as the plants will suffer and look quite scruffy.

6. Remember that a cheap and easy way to make a hanging container is to use a plastic ice cream or milk container suspended with wire or strong cord. Make sure there are some drainage holes in the bottom of the plastic container before filling it in the same way as above. The result can be just as impressive.