

Hanging Baskets

Hanging Baskets

Good Care & Good Grooming

Hanging Baskets for the Shade

Begonia-Nonstop
Begonia-Dragon Wing
Boston Fern
Fuchsia
Impatiens
Lobelia

Hanging Baskets for the Sun

Bacopa
Black-eyed Susan
Geranium
Lantana
Million Bells
Portulaca
Scaevola
Strawflower
Verbena

Water before wilting

Because they're exposed to more wind and warmer temperatures, hanging baskets dry out faster than garden bed plants. Check soil daily, using a moisture meter if necessary. Water deeply when the top two inches of soil are dry.

Tip: Adding a moisture retaining product, such as "Soil Moist Spikes" or Soil Moist Beads" will help to maintain your plant's water needs.

Fertilizing

If you notice yellowing leaves or poor flowering, the plant is sending a message that it needs either more light or some fertilizing. If you know your plant is receiving enough light, then feed it. Use a water-soluble fertilizer at half-strength every time you water; or when you first get your hanging basket, sprinkle over the soil one or two tablespoons of slow-release fertilizer, such as Osmocote. This amount will keep the plant well fed all season.

Tip: A little fertilizer is good, too much is deadly. Don't overfeed your plants. Excessive fertilizer will burn roots. Follow directions on the label.



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Hangging Baskets

Vacation care

When you leave for vacation take hanging baskets down and put them on the ground in a shady, protected spot. Water thoroughly before you leave. Trimming your plants back slightly will help reduce their water needs. Better still, ask a friend or neighbor to water while you're away.

Grooming

For good appearance and to encourage vigorous flowering, remove spent blossoms and seedpods. If plants become overgrown and scraggly, trim them back.



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