

Beautiful Baskets - the easy way!



Fit basket and liner with a polythene bag and add Nutrigel.



Roll side plants in newspaper to protect roots when planting.



Place the centrepiece plant and evenly space other main plants.



Fill any gaps with small plants.

For our herb basket, we used three different thymes, curry plant in the centre, edible heartsease and mizuna around the sides.

STEP BY STEP

1. For easy planting, purchase baskets with a preformed liner.
2. Sit the empty basket on a bucket or pot, on top of an outdoor table, while planting.
3. Fit a polythene planter bag (with drainage holes) inside the liner to help retain moisture. Slit the sides of the polythene bag if necessary to make it fit the basket.
4. Evenly mark and cut slots in the liner (in a diamond pattern) for side planting.
5. Fill the basket with good quality potting mix (or Hanging Basket Mix) up to the first layer of side planting.
6. If using ordinary potting mix, add slow release fertiliser and water crystals (or Nutrigel).
7. Firm potting mix and plant sides by rolling plant roots in newspaper and threading the root ball through pre-cut slots, from outside to inside.
8. Remove the newspaper and fill with potting mix to the next level of planting.
9. Repeat steps 6 - 8.
10. Sit the largest growing (centrepiece) plant in the centre-top of the basket. Adjust the level of potting mix so the top of the root ball sits about 2cm below the top of the basket.

Please note: Step 3 is optional and not necessary if the basket is lined with sphagnum moss, which holds a lot of moisture.

11. Evenly space all other main plants in the top of the basket.
12. Fill around plants with potting mix, firming it lightly as you go, to within 2cm of the top of the basket to allow space for watering.
13. Add other small plants to fill in any gaps and create a full effect – these can be culled at a later date if necessary.
14. Hang the basket securely and water thoroughly.

Checklist for healthy baskets

- ✓ Start with strong, healthy young plants and good quality potting mix.
- ✓ Larger baskets (30 – 40cm diameter) hold moisture for longer than small baskets.
- ✓ Hang baskets in a sheltered area to protect plants from drying, damaging winds.
- ✓ Regular watering is essential – maybe up to three times daily in hot weather.
- ✓ A trickle watering system is helpful where you have lots of baskets in one area.
- ✓ If plants wilt, soak the entire basket in a tub of water until bubbles stop rising.
- ✓ Liquid feed fortnightly with a balanced plant food.
- ✓ Deadhead spent flowers or fruit and remove diseased or overcrowded plants.
- ✓ Lightly trim vigorous plants to keep them in check.
- ✓ Apply slow release fertilizer every three months.

