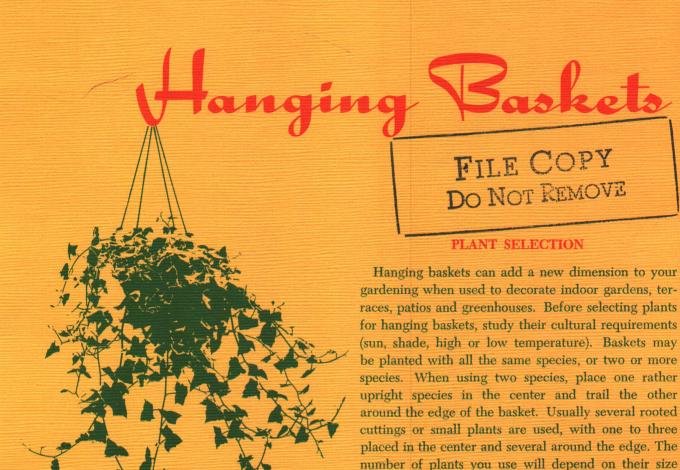
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Hanging Baskets
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
J. Lee Taylor, William H. Carlson, and Robert R. Sherman Jr
Department of Horticulture
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TYPES OF HANGING BASKETS

and that of the container.

Hanging baskets can be made from most any object that will hold soil and allow proper drainage — a wire frame lined with spagnum moss, a wooden or plastic basket, a hollowed coconut shell, an old shoe or kitchen colander, a clay pot.

### **BASKET ASSEMBLY**

Mix equal parts soil, sand (perlite or vermiculite) and peat moss with ¼ lbs. of superphosphate (0-20-0) for ever bushel of soil mix. Then fill the basket with the mixture.

For an 8- to 10-in. diameter pot, use two plants in the center and three or four trailing plants on the outside. The outside plants may be slanted for projection of the tops beyond the rim of the container.

#### DRAINAGE

Internal drainage is essential for indoor containers. Drainage material (small pebbles, pieces of broken pots, coarse sand or ground charcoal) will prevent the soil from becoming waterlogged.

By J. Lee Taylor, William H. Carlson and Robert R. Sherman, Jr. Department of Horticulture

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#### WATERING

Water the basket thoroughly immediately after planting. Outdoor baskets will dry out quickly on hot, sunny, breezy days when the relative humidity is low and may need watering more than once daily. However, indoor baskets that receive low amounts of light and are poorly drained may only need weekly watering. As a rule of thumb, water your hanging basket thoroughly if the topsoil is dry and wilting is beginning to occur. Then wait until this condition is reached again to water.

## **FERTUIZATION**

All plants need nutrients to grow and most materials and nutrients are provided in the soil mix discussed previously. However, plants require additional nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. If the lower foliage becomes yellow, nitrogen may be deficient. If leaves turn purple and become stunted, phosphorous may be deficient. Leaves that have burned or browned edges (not caused by the sun), may lack potassium.

The amount and frequency of fertilization depends on the amount and frequency of watering. That is, the more you water the more nutrient leaching will occur. For outdoor baskets with good drainage, use 5-10-10 or a 10-10-10 fertilizer applied monthly at the rate of 1 teaspoon/pot and the same to indoor baskets every 2 to 3 months. Or use a house plant fertilizer at the rate recommended on the label. **DO NOT OVER FERTILIZE.** 

# CULTURAL PRACTICES

You can shape plants in hanging baskets by removing several inches of terminal growth (pinching). Remove old flowers, seed pods and dead material which encourages insects and disease. Some plants benefit if they are cut back occasionally. Cutting back in late July or early August will provide showy baskets in the fall.

## WINTER CARE

Bring outdoor baskets inside before the first frost and place in a South or East window. If there is no place for them indoors, they may be cleaned out, washed and stored until the following spring. DO NOT leave plastic containers in cold areas as they may crack when frozen.

#### BASKET EXAMPLES

Shade: 1. Asparagus fern in the center and fibrous rooted begonias on the outside.

2. Asparagus fern in the center and impatiens toward the outside.

Sun: 1. Asparagus fern in center and petunias on the outside.

2. Coleus in center and ivy geranium on the outside.

The following list of plants can be used:

#### SHADE HANGING BASKETS

Asparagus Fern Lobelia Artillery Plant Pansy & Viola Boston Fern Pellionia Browallia Pepper Caladium Periwinkle Christmas Cactus Philodendron Creeping Fig Pick-A-Back English Ivy Plectranthus Fuchsia Pothos German Ivv Schizanthus Grape Ivy Staghorn Fern Hemigraphis Torenia Impatiens Tradescantia Japanese Honeysuckle Tuberous Begonia

Kangaroo Vine

Ageratum Morning Glory Asparagus Fern Marigold Cherry Tomato Nasturtium Cigar Plant Petunia Coleus Portulaca Dianthus Salvia Dusty Miller Shrimp Plant Dwarf Marigold Strawberry Begonia English Ivy Sweet Potato Geranium Telanthera Ivy Geranium Trailing Lantana Iresine Verbena Wax Begonia Lantana

Zebrina

Zinnia

Linaria