

The English Basket

The lush baskets of flowers you can see everywhere in downtown Portland are not so difficult to create. We have presented this creation here in three easy steps with some helpful hints to keep you basket a bloom.

Materials

- * 17" or larger metal wire basket
- * Green moss, fiber or coco liner to fit basket
- * 1 cubic foot or larger bag of potting soil
- * Plant starts 2-4" pots.

Step 1

Place your basket on a pot with the liner or moss. If you choose to use moss, moisten it by presoaking in a bucket of water. Fill the basket 1/3 of the way with potting soil. Lightly moisten the potting soil. Make holes in the liner if they do not exist. See diagram below.

Step 2

Slide the trailing plants into through the holes of the basket and liner. There are many colors and textures from which to choose. In the diagram below, you can see Bacopa, Diascia, Brachycome, and Verbena.

Step 3

Use an upright plant for the top of the basket. The diagram uses a geranium. Once you have placed the top plant, fill the rest of the basket with potting soil. Tamp down the soil and water thoroughly. See diagram

Annuals for hot and dry conditions

Trailing plants

Lotus vine-Thin light silver foliage with orange/red hooked flowers.

Portulaca- Moss rose. Succulent leaves with multicolor rose like flowers.

Ivy geranium- A trailing geranium with ivy like leaves and airy flowers in pink white and red hues.

Bidens- Green leaves with yellow daisy like flowers.

Bacopa- Green foliage with tiny white flowers.

Verbena- Hairy leaves with rounded sets of flowers, which come in an array of bright colors.

Sanvitalia- Small green leaves with yellow zinnia like flowers.

Scaevola- Dark green cut foliage with blue winged flowers.

Brachycome- Feathery foliage with blue daisy like flowers.

Helichrysum- Excellent foliage plant with small silver or lime green leaves.

Upright

Ageratum- Dense green leaves with tufted blue flowers.

Celosia- Green leaves with fuzzy brightly colored flowers that resemble a brain.

Gazania- Long silver leaves with large daisy shaped flowers in bright golds and oranges.

Geranium- Zonal, scented and ivy types of geraniums are well suited for hot situations.

Salvia- Sage. Annual sages tend to come in shades of red, blue and purple.

Zinnia- The small leaved angustifolia varieties and hybrids tend to be the most compact and heat tolerant. Persian Carpet is one of our favorite mixes.



Tips for a wonderful basket

When to plant.: We recommend planting your English basket as soon as 4” annual basket stuffers become available in the nurseries. If there is a danger of frost, bring in the basket to an unheated garage or other sheltered area. The sooner you can get a start on the basket, the fuller it can become by summer.

Water In hot sun you will need to water every day. If you wish to use less water, mix soil moist granuals with the potting soil. In addition, water needs change with the weather.

Fertilizer. You can mix a time release fertilizer (such as Osmocote) with the potting soil. The other method is fertilizing every week with a bloom fertilizer (Peters or Foxfarm).

Cleaning. Dead head the old flowers to encouge new ones. Pinch just below the spent blossom.

Suggestions . You can create your container with a color theme such as hot or cool colors.

Written by Catherine Peron

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Steps to make a large hanging basket with sun loving annuals .



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