

Hanging-baskets

How should I fill a hanging-basket?

When planted, a hanging-basket becomes packed with plants that quickly grow and create a magnificent display. The essential needs of these plants are moisture-retentive compost – kept moist throughout summer – and regular feeding to encourage strong and healthy growth. Therefore, careful planting, using clean compost, is essential. Planting a basket is detailed on the opposite page, together with suggestions for suitable composts.

CREATING BEAUTIFUL BASKET DISPLAYS



Use hanging-baskets to highlight entrances, but make sure that they cannot be knocked.

Mixing and matching flowering and foliage plants in a hanging-basket, as well as colour-coordinating them with attractive backgrounds, are ways to get the best out of these popular summer-long features. If planting them yourself is likely to be a time and space problem, established hanging-baskets can be bought from nurseries and garden centres in early summer. Sometimes it is possible to choose specific plants and colours if the order is made early, perhaps in mid-winter. To get them home safely, stand large baskets in the top of a round bowl.



Ornate, basket-weave containers have a dainty and rustic appearance.

GUIDE TO SELECTING HANGING-BASKETS

Wire-framed hanging-baskets range in width from 25 to 45 cm (10–18 in). Choose one with plastic-coated wire. Bowl-shaped plastic hanging-baskets have solid sides, which help with moisture retention. Additionally, some of these baskets have drip-trays built into their bases, and these are ideal for displaying plants in porches and conservatories.



Wire round-bottomed hanging-basket



Wrought-iron style hanging-basket with open sides



Terracotta style ornately decorated hanging-basket



Plastic hanging-basket with planting pockets and drip-tray



Fit a rounded, plastic container within the basket.

DISPLAY POSITIONS

Most hanging-baskets are suspended from wall brackets screwed to a wall. This allows the basket to hang freely, with its edge 10–15 cm (4–6 in) from the wall. Screwing large hooks into a bargeboard or fascia is possible for bungalows (but check they are secure).



Suspend a basket from a wall bracket



Hang a basket from a bargeboard or fascia



Secure a basket to an overhead framework

FIRM FIXINGS

Secure fastenings are essential, as well as rust-proof supporting chains. When laden with plants and at the height of summer – and when recently watered – baskets are heavy. Also, wind rocks baskets and loosens weak fixings. Do not hang baskets over pavements; excess water drips, and if brackets or chains fail it could be disastrous.