



Photos by Jenny Oakley

## HOW TO PLANT A HANGING BASKET

### Jenny's way

Jenny's all-over planting is built up in layers. The liner is also installed in layers so no cutting is involved.

#### 1 To prepare a hessian liner:

Cut lengths of hessian cloth and fold in strips to make long wad, 8-10cm wide (depending on the size of your basket) and a few layers thick. Jenny sometimes uses a layer of weed mat wrapped in hessian. Use a stapler to hold the folds together.

#### 2 Line the bottom of the basket

with a layer of hessian. Add a layer of coconut fibre on top. To hold extra water in summer baskets, Jenny also adds a layer of plastic.

#### 3 Fill the bottom third

of the basket with potting mix and add a sprinkling of slow release fertiliser.

#### 4 Place flower seedlings

on top, evenly spacing them around the perimeter of the basket so that the roots are inside the basket and leaves on the outside.

#### 5 Line the next layer

, placing a strip of hessian liner where the plants roots meet leaves around the perimeter of the basket. Overlap the edges.

#### 6 Add more potting mix

up to the top of the liner strip. Optional extra: On top of this, add a circle of coconut fibre around the perimeter of the basket. This helps prevent potting mix falling through the cracks before the plants grow.

#### 7 Add another circle of plants

, spacing them so that they sit between the plants of the lower layer, not directly above. Sprinkle over more fertiliser.

#### 8 Line the final layer

(repeat step 5) and fill with potting mix, leaving the top 1-2cm unfilled to allow for water soakage.

#### 9 Plant the top layer

, starting from the middle (perhaps with a larger growing 'feature' plant), then at even spacings all the way out to the edges.



**TIP:** Plant spacing depends on the plants, but generally for a full looking basket, it's best to plant a little closer than is recommended on the label.



Bacopa  
Megacopa  
White

## Plants for hanging baskets

### FLOWERING ANNUALS

To plant in layers for a colourful ball of flowers:

- Petunia
- Lobelia
- Alyssum
- Impatiens
- Antirrhinum
- Nemesia
- Pansies and violas

### FOR SHADY LOCATIONS

Plants that perform well with less light include:

- Impatiens
- Heuchera
- Heucherella
- Tiarella
- Fuchsias
- Lobelia
- Begonia
- Mondo grass



### QUICK AND EASY

Plant just one (up to 3) of these per 40cm basket for a stunning season-long display.

- Colourwave Petunias
- Petunia 'Bubblegum'
- Supertunias
- SuperCal Petchoas
- Calibrachoas
- Calipetites
- Sunpatiens
- Colourwave verbenas
- Superbenas
- Ivy geraniums (Pelargonium)



### FILLERS AND FOLIAGE

For long lasting colour and texture with or without flowers.

- Cineraria 'Silver Dust'
- Parsley
- Heuchera
- Heucherella
- Tiarella
- Fuchsias
- Ivy
- Mondo grass

### MOONLIGHT BASKET

White flowers and silver foliage stand out at night:

- Bacopa
- Impatiens
- Nicotiana
- Pelargonium
- Alyssum
- Begonia
- Dichondra 'Silver Falls'
- Verbena

Choose plants which enjoy the same conditions, based on where your basket will hang. They should have roughly similar growth rates, so that one doesn't swamp the other.

### Basket tips

- ✓ Start with strong, healthy young plants and good quality potting mix.
- ✓ To check whether a basket needs watering, lift it slightly to feel the weight.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to cram lots of plants into a hanging basket. They look best when really full.
- ✓ Add a wetting agent to help save water and spread moisture and nutrients evenly throughout the basket. If potting mix gets dry and packed with roots it repels water. A wetting agent effectively works like blotting paper.
- ✓ Trim and deadhead plants often to maintain fresh healthy growth and flowering.
- ✓ Larger baskets hold moisture and nutrients for longer than small baskets.