

Brighten up your veranda with Hanging Gardens

Great ideas for townhouse or balcony gardens.

If you have a small townhouse garden or perhaps only a balcony, then hanging baskets (more appropriately called 'hanging gardens') are a simple way to bring living colour to your home. Hanging gardens can bring interest to bare walls, a porch or a pergola.

Planting: To make it easier to plant, stand the wire basket on the top of a bucket. A wide variety of materials can be used to line baskets. These include coconut liners, recycled rubber, shade cloth, carpet felt and foam carpet underlay. Use only premium grade potting mix that has water crystals.

Position: Choose a place for your basket that is protected from hot winds, especially the very hot summer north-westerly winds. This may mean using a slightly shady position, in which case use plants that do not require constant sun. Refer to **planting suggestions below**.

Support: Support your baskets from the existing rafters using purpose made swivel hooks, available from most garden centres. The basket can be rotated to allow even light to the plants. Alternatively, use a wall bracket, in which case do use proper **Rawlplug** or **Loxon** type fittings. The basket can be very heavy when wet. Make sure you have the arm of the bracket long enough to hold the width of the basket away from the wall. Hang baskets at different levels for added interest.

Watering: Hanging baskets dry out very quickly. From spring (September) through summer to the autumn (March) they will need watering every day. Always use a soft spray nozzle and if the weather is very hot a cooling shower in the middle of the day is beneficial.

Feeding: Plants in hanging baskets will need feeding very regularly due to the constant watering, fertilisers tend to be leached out of the mix very quickly. Apply a liquid fertiliser feed, such as **Maxicrop Seaweed Plant Nutrient**, every couple of months.

Planting suggestions

For strong summer colour and in full sun	For spring and summer colour in partial shade	For year-round colour in full sun or partial shade	For a herb basket
Begonia, geranium, ivy geranium, lobelia, petunia, salvia, pansy, marigold, nasturtium, chrysanthemum, allysum, dianthus [pinks], arabis	campanula, begonia, impatiens [busy lizzie], fuchsia, viola, gardenia radicans [rock gardenia], gumpo azalea, dwarf ferns, pachysandra	Winter flowering heathers and ericas, spring flowering ajuga [bugle flower], summer flowering vinca minor [periwinkle], winter to summer flowering viola and pansy	Pennyroyal, chives, marjoram, oregano, sage, parsley, thyme, parsley and mints

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