Hanging baskets add color, interest

anging baskets of bright flow-ers can add interest and color to many patios and gardens. Whether it is filled with pur-ple lantana gracing an old-time

GARDEN SPOT



g an old-time porch, ivy gorn-lium swinging from a lamppost or shepherd's hook, or a lovely pink fuchsin suspended from a tree branch, langing planters are always a focal point. Containskets can be

ers for hanging baskets can be most anything you wish to use; they all need drainage holes, Wire, plastic, redwood, clay, wicker, an old iron kettle are all

wicker, an old iron kettle are all candidates.

Hangers need to be securely fastened to hold the container securely. You won't want all your planning and hard work to fall to the ground and be destroyed just because of its weight It's surprising how much weight water can add.

Use care when removing the plants from their pots. Place the crown between your middle and index fingers, tip up the pot and strike the base with the heel of your other hand. Gently pull the container off the root ball. This will assure that the rots aren't damaged.

Potting soil

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Uso a good potting soil for your plants. Many have slow-release fertilizer pellets in them. An excellent one is Pre-Mix Hanging Basket & Planter Mix. It contains water-absorbing crystals that release stored between the theorem. water to the roots when they need it; consequently you'll need to water about half as much. Fertilizer granules will need to

Lightly moisten the mix with Lightly moisten the mix with just enough water to make it loose and fluffy and fill the continuer one-hird full. Place one plant in the center and several around it, leaving 4 to 6 inches between plants.

Settle the mix around the plants with water, and then gently press the plants in position. Don't compact the tiny air spaces. The following stores carry this

product: The Plant Station in Birmingham, Lucas Nursery & Landscape Inc. in Canton, Clyde Smith & Son Greenhouse in Westland, and Wojo's in Ortoville.

After midsenson, especially with large baskets, if folinge starts to yellow, feed every two weeks with a water-soluble product. Wire basket forms need to be lined with coir or moss.

Luster Leaf products now have compressed long fiber sphagaum moss that is great for containers. Visit www.luster-leaf.com for a store near you. Moss retains 20 times its weight in water for a long time so the plants need less care.

For trailing plants, cut slits at varying levels in the sides of the liner and fill the basket with aoil mix to just below the level of the lowest cut. Moisten the root ball of the chosen plant, squeeze it gently to form a sausage shape and carefully push it through the slit. Add additional soil to the next slit, etc. Top the basket with additional soil and plants to fill the top of the container.

Choices

Choices

to fill the top of the container.

Choices

The fun begins when you choose plants to use for this project. Be aware that some flowers like shade, others prefer sun. Some are trailing, others upright; there are many choices. As you stroll through the nursery and see the flowers up close and personal, let your imagination run rampant.

Perhaps you'll want a riot of color. Bright, bold colors are all the rage now. Maybe one aspecial plant will be your choice. Choose the color that you like beat, match the shutters of your house or door, or plant something that contrasts well with "your colors for a striking display. Perhaps the flowers in several hanging containers could be the same color. A patriotic theme of red, white and blue is a happy and appropriate combination.

Hanging flower displays are an easy way to add some pizzarz to landscapes. They don't require a lot of time; the flowers should be deadheaded on a regular basis to keep them blooming. If possible, set the newly planted beauties in a slightly slady place for a day or so as they settle in to their new growing medium.

Watering

One

\$ 1.25 (Installed)

Door Wall Glass

Replaced
Standard 6 ft. size (34"x76")



Beautiful Bells: Million Bells, Calibrachoa, is a bea ful plant for a hanging basket. Flower colors are pink, purple, yellow, reddish orange, white and blue.

purple, yellow, reddish oran Check out the many products available for watering the containers. You'll find systems that apply water directly to the container through individual tubes. Dramm water wands are adjustable and supply a gentle spray of water without disturbing the soil.

A clever trick is to use an inexpensive sponge. Cut small ones in half, larger ones in quarters. Soak them well and lay them on top of the soil. You can also pour water directly on the sponges. I hope you enjoy your creations. Marty Figley is an Adeanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a

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garden walk June 22

The Farmington Garden Club's Garden Walk will take place 10 m.n. to 4 pm. Saturday, June 22, min or shine.

The walk will feature six of Farmington and Farmington and Farmington lills' most picture-sque gardens, including the garden at Warner Mansion, Tickets are \$7 and can be bought at Steinkopf's Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road.

On the day of the walk, tickets

will be sold at the Heritage Park Visitors Center, on Farmington hand between 10 and 11 Mile, Refreshments will be served and a limited number of one-of-de-kind, handerafted dragonfly gar-den ornaments will be for sole. Through arrangement with its sponsor, Steinkopf's Nursery, the club will be selling this year?, hot'new and popular perennials at a discounted patron's price.

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GARDEN CALENDAR

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
Hardy Plant Society sponsors a
'Garden Resources' class, to be
held at the Bowers School Farm
in the one-story red and white
classroom building on Agriscience Drive on the north side of
Square Lake Road, the third
coad west of Adams Road,
Bloomfield Hills, from 7-10 p.m.
Thursday, June 13. Fee \$10. To
register, mail check made out to
the society to 323 Enst Lovell
Drive, Troy, 140085-1621. All profits go to the Bowers School
Farm.

Farm.

S.E.M. BROMELIAD SOCIETY
The S.E.M. Bromeliad Society
meets at the Klosterman home
in West Bloomfield at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 15. George Klosterman will demonstrate "Ideas and
Techniques for Mounting Air
Plants."

Plants."
Plants will be available for pur-chase. For information, call (248) 661-4060.







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