



If It Holds Soil It's A Potential Hanging Basket

Hanging baskets can add a new dimension to your gardening, according to Michigan State University horticulturists. They are especially nice in indoor gardens, terraces, patios, and greenhouses.

Baskets may be planted with one, two, or more species of plants. When using two or more, place one rather upright variety in the center and trail others around the basket's edge.

Hanging baskets can be made from almost any object that will hold soil and allow drainage, say the experts, but some possibilities include hollowed coconut shells, old shoes, kitchen collanders, or standard clay pots.

Assembling the hanging basket is relatively simple. Mix equal parts soil, sand, and peat moss with one-quarter pound of superphosphate, grade 0-20-0, for every bushel of soil mix.

Small pebbles, pieces of broken pot, coarse sand, or ground charcoal should be included in the mixture to allow for efficient drainage.

Watering depends upon the conditions in which the plant is raised. As a rule of thumb, water your hanging basket thoroughly if the topsoil is dry and wilting is beginning to occur. Wait, then, until this condition is again reached before watering.

Nutrients are essential to plant growth. One teaspoon of fertilizer to one pot every two to three months should keep the plants in good shape. Caution: Do not over-fertilize!

Plants in hanging baskets can be shaped by removing several inches of terminal growth at regular intervals. Old flowers, seed pods, and dead materials should also be removed to prevent insect and disease infestation.

For more information on hanging baskets, write to the Bulletin Office, Box 231, East Lansing, Mich. 48823 and request Extension Bulletin 758.

ATTRACTIVE OFFICE at home blends harmoniously with the overall decorative scheme. Designer Emy Leeger suggests a setting with a nostalgic but practical rolltop desk placed near, but not in, the living room. Strong primary colors link the two areas which are further blended by the vibrant red Bigelow carpet. An added bonus is the static-resistance of the carpet due to the Brunson fiber added to the continuous filament nylon.

Transplant This Year

If only a few of your hyacinths or tulips came up this year, the bulbs may need thinning and transplanting, say MSU horticulturists.

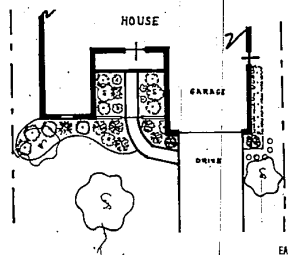
Dig them up in the summer after the bulb coat turns from yellow to light brown. This will give them time to cure before they're replanted in the fall.



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