



## Moss Basket Guide



*Making your own living bouquet is easier than you think! Bring nature right to your outdoor living space and by changing plants you can have color almost year round!  
Just a few easy steps to make and a few easy steps to maintain.*

### Materials

#### Wire Basket & Swivel Hanger

Larger sizes are easier to keep moist, and swivel hangers make watering easier.

#### Sphagnum Moss

- 2 lb. bale ~ One 14" basket
- 5 lb. bale ~ Two 16" basket
- 25 lb. bale ~ Ten 16" baskets

#### Professional Potting Soil

This soil contains P4 which increases the water holding capacity of the soil.

#### Soil Penetrant

Use monthly on perennial baskets to ensure the water penetrates the entire soil ball.

#### Osmocote Slow Release Fertilizer

Lasts 3-4 months-mark your calendar to remember when to reapply.

#### Master's Bud & Bloom

Use this water soluble fertilizer every two weeks; it pumps out the blooms- especially on annuals.

#### Plants

Let your imagination run wild! If you use bedding plants:

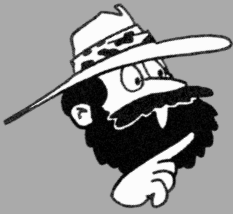
- Six 6 packs for a 14" basket
- Seven 6 packs for a 16" basket
- One 6 pack for the top of either size or Three 4" for the top

### Plant Choice

Here's a short list of plants the we have used in moss baskets. Use your imagination-any small hanging or clumping plant is a good candidate!

Note: Items with an \* can be used for tops and sides of baskets.

-Sun Annuals- Warm Season	-Sun Annuals- Cool Season
*Petunia	*Pansy
*Lobelia	*Viola
*Alyssum (year-round)	*Primrose
*Marigold	Paludosum Daisy
*Vinca	*Alyssum (year-round)
*Verbena	Iceland Poppy
-Shade/Part Shade Annuals- Warm Season	-Shade/Part Shade Annuals- Cool Season
*Lobelia	*Primrose
*Begonia	*Viola
*Impatiens	*Herbs (some)
-Sun Perennial-	-Shade/Part Shade Perennial-
*Gazania	*Cymbelaria
*Strawberry	*Ivy
*Succulents	Cyclamen
*Armeria	Creeping Veronica
*Thyme	Lamium
*Herbs (some)	*Irish/Scotch Moss
Bacopa	Fern
Calibrachoa	Fuschia



# Moss Baskets Continued



## Planting Preparation

There are several ways to construct a moss basket. We feel this method works best for at home construction.

It's easiest to work on a table (put the basket on a pot or milk crate to bring it to a comfortable level) and attach the hanger last. Tip: Bend the hanger wires as one group to ensure the same length.

For baskets with round bottoms or unusual shapes, you can attach the hanger and work with it hanging or use an empty pot as a holder.

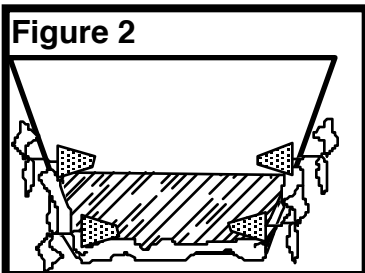
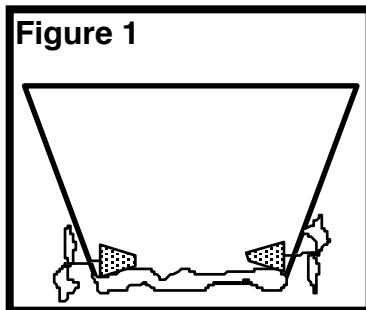
Soak the sphagnum moss in water and make sure the plants and potting soil are moist and drained of excess water.

## Planting

Place a layer of moss (right from the bucket of water) on the bottom of the basket and poke the first layer of plants (six total) through the wires and on top of the bottom layer of moss. Place each plant along a vertical wire of the basket for additional support (Figure 1).

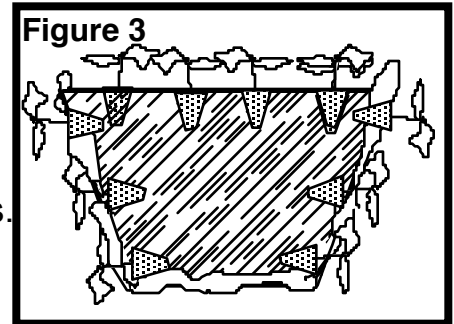
Place a layer of moss around the inside of the basket to the first horizontal wire, next to the root balls to secure them.

Place the second layer of plants through the wires being sure roots are through the moss (See Figure 2). These plants should be staggered so that they are not directly above the previous layer of plants. Place more moss up the sides of the basket to the next horizontal wire



and repeat (Figure 3).

Generally, each layer will contain six plants. The top layer of large baskets may be as many as 12 plants, or two plants for each section between vertical wires.



At the top, form a heavy rim of moss to hold water by kneading and twisting the moss-like you would for a bread roll. Tuck a quarter of the roll under the top wire. Fill the basket with the moist soil and firm the soil in the basket to reduce settling and air pockets.

Now you are ready to place the final plants on top! These may or may not match the plants used on the sides (Figure 3).

Lastly, attach the hanger (see planting preparation) and hang. Be careful, as a wet basket is bulky and heavy. Make sure you have a sturdy place to hang it. Water the plants thoroughly-top and sides. Try not to blast plants with the hose- use low pressure and/or a dispersing hose nozzle. After it has drained, tuck any trailing moss.

## Maintenance

Keeping your basket looking good is easy. Check *daily* for water-a spot with partial shade or out of drying winds is best, even for sun tolerant plants. Remember that wind can dry out plants faster than sun or heat!

Fertilize bi-weekly with **Bud & Bloom**. Keep a sharp lookout for insects.

If a few plants should die, you can replant at any time by digging a hole in the side and inserting a replacement. Be careful to fill in the moss snugly.