



Unique Garden Centre

6th Avenue North & Broad St., Regina, Sk. 777-0190

Hanging Baskets & Container Gardens



Annual flowers and vegetables in containers have become more popular to gardening enthusiasts and novice beginners alike. They offer a wide range of colour and interest for the patio, deck, porch and balcony.

As any other planting situation, for excellent results, the container garden requires plenty of T.L.C., a nutritious soil and adequate moisture.

One advantage of container gardening is that you can control the composition of your soil. A fairly light soil mixture is necessary to reduce weight and facilitate drainage. For inexperienced gardeners, prepared soil mixes ensure successful results. If you prefer to make your own soil mixture, use soil for one third or less of the bulk (packaged potting soil is recommended over garden soil), with the remainder made up of 1/2 peat moss and 1/3 perlite or coarse sand.

More water and fertilizers have to be added to plants confined in containers than to garden grown plants, whose roots are free to spread out and take what they need from the soil. The limited volume of soil in a container dries out very quickly at rooftop or balcony level where it is often several degrees warmer and often windier than in a ground level bed. As well, water is lost through drainage from the container and nutrients leach out of the soil along with the water. Remember that vegetables and annuals grow much faster than houseplants and this increases their water and nutrient requirements.

Watering must be done constantly or containers soon become bone dry. This is disastrous to the plants as the roots cannot depend on any subsoil moisture. The soil in hanging baskets and other containers will dry out very quickly because of the limited soil mass, the additional heating on the sides of the container, and the additional drying effect of the air circulation around the root mass. **Check your containers often, especially if they are in a sunny and windy location. This could be 2 or 3 times a day in very hot weather.**

Fertilizer should be applied on a regular schedule. The small soil mass, constant leaching by watering, and the vigorous growth rate of annuals will result in a more frequent feeding schedule than plants growing directly in the garden. Water soluble plant foods are the simplest to use. For example, a 20-20-20 fertilizer at the rate of one teaspoon per gallon of water and used every ten days will promote and ensure continuous blooming for your flowering baskets. For vegetables in containers use a higher phosphorous fertilizer, such as 15-30-10.

The choice of a proper site to display your hanging baskets or containers is very important. Consideration must be given to the amount of sunlight and heat that the variety grows in best. Extremely windy locations are best avoided or protection provided. Though certain varieties may withstand similar conditions planted in the garden, a hanging basket or container sitting on the deck will generally be exposed to greater wind velocity and heat stress. **Moving or sheltering your hanging baskets on an extremely windy day is strongly recommended.**



It is recommended that you acclimatize your newly purchased hanging basket or container garden once you've taken it home. Remember most have been protected and grown in the greenhouse, where they receive plenty of water plus protection from winds and direct sun exposure. Keep a careful eye on them for the first 7 days, watching them for water needs and heat stress. Protect them from strong winds and shade them from the days hottest sun until they become accustomed to their outdoor situation.

When planting your own hanging baskets and containers, choose proper varieties for the intended location, and those with similar requirements if planting a mixed basket.

The following list indicates popular annual varieties used for hanging baskets and their preferred locations.

Sunny to Semi-Shade (Will tolerate some heat but protect from extremely hot and windy locations.)

TOMATO	THUNBERGIA	NASTURTIUM
CUCUMBER	GAZANIA	GERANIUM**
CARNATION	PETUNIA**	VERBENA
COLEUS*	VINCA*	LOBELIA*
PORTULACA	ALYSSUM	MARIGOLD
PERIWINKLE*	SNAPDRAGONS	TORENIA
VERBENA	ZINNIAS	SALVIA
POTATO VINE		

**prefer semi-shade*

*** will tolerate a sunny exposed area*

Shade

FUSCHIA*	IMPATIENS	REIGER BEGONIA
PENDULOUS BEGONIA*	FIBROUS BEGONIA	BOWALLIA
PANSY	LOBELIA	COLEUS
VINCA VINE	KENNELWORTH IVY	

**protect from winds.*

