

# CARE OF HANGING BASKETS

**Watering** – Hanging baskets and containers dry out very quickly. On a warm summer day, you may have to water as much as two or three times. One way to know if your baskets are dry, is to lift them up from the bottom of the container. Dry baskets will be very light weight and should be watered at once. You may also feel the soil to determine dryness. If the potting soil feels dry one inch below the soil surface, then it must be watered. When you water, be sure to water enough so that it drains out the drainage holes. If your hanging basket has dried out too much, then you will need to immerse it in a bucket of water to resoak the soil mix.

**Fertilizing** – Frequent watering flushes nutrients from the soil rather quickly. Frequent fertilizing will help replenish that which is lost. Two different fertilizers should be used, liquid and timed-release. Liquid fertilizers are applied biweekly throughout the growing season. They are fast acting. Timed-release fertilizers are applied to the soil, and are released over time. They can last up to several months, depending on the fertilizer. Before you fertilize, it is important that the soil is moist. Fertilizer is utilized by plants much better when they are turgid and not wilting. Be sure to follow all labeled instructions on the fertilizer applied to hanging baskets.

**Dead-heading** – It is important to remove all faded flowers after they have bloomed. This is known as dead-heading. Removal of spent blooms will promote additional flowers to form. Some plants, such as verbena, benefit from cutting them back in mid summer. This will help promote further branching and flower formation. Fuchsia baskets need the seed pods removed when they are formed. This keeps new flowers coming.

## **Sun Baskets**

Petunia  
Combination  
Lotus Vine  
Verbena  
Bacopa  
Million Bells  
Ivy Geranium

## **Shade Baskets**

New Guinea Impatiens  
Begonia  
Fuchsia  
Double Impatiens