



Planting up Hanging Baskets and Pots

Description of activity	PAL
Planting up hanging baskets and pots with bedding plants.	All
Time of Year	Time needed to complete activity
Spring, Summer and Autumn	3 hours + (inc prep, can be done in stages)

Preparation

1. Assess the weather, this activity is made of 2 parts, purchase and planting. The former can be done indoors.
2. Purchase variety of bedding plants, baskets pots and compost.
3. Prepare hanging baskets with coir lining.
4. Consider the potential weight of the pot once filled, is it safely movable or should it be filled in situ.
5. Gather materials to a table so people can sit or stand whilst doing the task.

Tools and materials

1. Compost (Multi purpose, peat-free)
2. Bedding plants
3. Compost scoop
4. Pots/hanging baskets
5. Gloves if desired but not necessary
6. Trowel



What to do

1. Fill pot or basket with compost using scoop, breaking up large clumps as you go.
2. Leave a gap of 1 inch from the top (so water doesn't pour off).
3. Using a trowel make a hole for the plant root ball, deep enough for the soil of plant and pot to be level.
4. Pop plant in and firm compost around it.
5. Repeat process putting root balls an inch apart. Fill pot completely.
6. Move pot to its resting place and once in situ, water well.
7. Water regularly, hanging baskets and pots dry out very quickly and when against a wall, often don't get rained on.

This activity requires preparation, choosing and purchasing baskets, pots and plants, deciding where to place them and thinking about which parts of the activity people would like to engage with.

Depending on the garden, you may be looking to do a few pots, or a few baskets or some of both. Consider access to water, placing them near to an outdoor water source if possible.

Extras

Choosing the bedding plants from gardening brochures can be done before hand and might interest people not interested in doing the planting, but rather enjoy looking at the pictures and choosing colour schemes.

Long-term watering is an activity in its own right and can become a daily task during high summer. Ideally water thoroughly in the evening as this is when plants like to drink. Use a watering can or hose with a soft spray.

Adaptations and variations

For people with reduced cognitive capacity, handling the compost may be the most stimulating part of this activity. Scooping compost onto a tray for people to feel and move into pots may be enough.

For those wishing to engage with the plants can be supported to decide how to arrange them for the best display, which plants to put together according to colour and shape.

Weather contingency

Planting up baskets or pots can be done inside or out depending on the weather. Choosing the plants can be done on a rainy day either from brochures or a day trip out to nursery or garden centre.



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