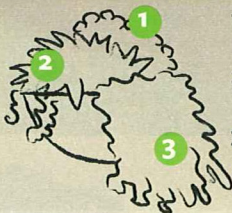


# high-wire act

This year, skip the plastic, mass-produced baskets. Design and plant your own unique hanging creations.

by ERIC LISKEY



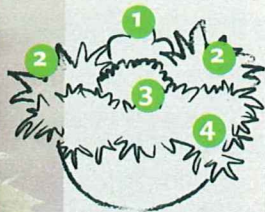
- 1) BRACTEANTHA  
'HELICA'
- 2) 'INFINITY ORANGE'  
IMPATIENS
- 3) CREEPING JENNY  
(LYSIMACHIA  
NUMMULARIA)

### fly your colors

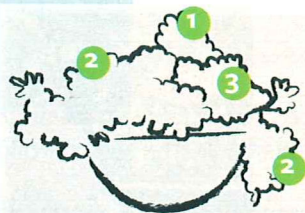
Homemade hanging baskets, unlike premade versions, let you combine your favorite plants.

**GETTING SET UP** Aside from plants, soil, and slow-release fertilizer, you'll need a wire basket, hook and chain, and coconut fiber liner, all available at garden centers. The hardware lasts years.

**SIMPLE AS 1-2-3** Each season, insert a new liner, fill with fresh potting mix, blend in slow-release fertilizer, then plant. Put cascading plants close to the edge and upright plants in the center.



- 1) 'NONSTOP YELLOW' BEGONIA
- 2) 'ILLUSION MIDNIGHT LACE' SWEET POTATO VINE
- 3) ANNUAL LOBELIA
- 4) *LYSIMACHIA* 'SUNDEW SPRING'



- 1) 'LUSCIOUS CITRUS'  
LANTANA
- 2) 'SUPERBELLS  
YELLOW'  
CALIBRACHOA
- 3) CUPHEA 'TOTALLY  
TEMPTED'

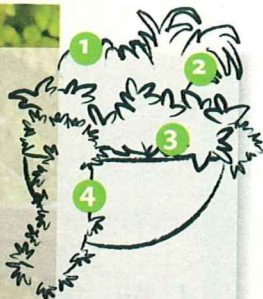
## sun baskets

Select heat-tolerant annuals for baskets in sunny sites; choose bright, rich bloom colors, which won't wash out in intense light.

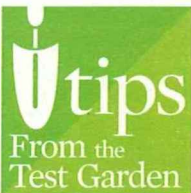
**PLENTY OF FLUIDS** Sunny baskets will need water every day. A household sponge or a clay saucer, placed in the soil in the bottom of the basket at planting time, will act as a reservoir and get your baskets through the hottest days without wilting.

## shade baskets

Flowering plants struggle to bloom in shade—impatiens and begonias are two exceptions—so foliage plants can be a good choice for baskets in dim light. Look for plants with white and pastel highlights, such as variegated caladium, coleus, *Iresine*, and ivy, which come alive in the shadows.



- 1) 'MOONLIGHT'  
CALADIUM
- 2) BRAKE FERN  
(*PTERIS CRETICA*  
'ALBO-LINEATA')
- 3) *HYPOESTES*  
'SPLASH WHITE'
- 4) ENGLISH IVY



**Hanging around the Test Garden, we've learned a few things.** Follow these tips to make caring for hanging baskets a lot easier.

- Turn baskets 90 degrees every few days to keep plants growing and blooming evenly on all sides. A swivel snap, available at hardware stores for a couple of dollars, lets you turn a basket without removing it from the hook.
- Going on a weekend trip? Temporarily move the basket to a fully shaded spot and soak it just before you leave town. It should last the weekend without additional watering. If you'll be gone longer, ask a friend to water it.
- To irrigate high baskets, use a watering wand to extend your reach. Keep your deck, patio, or porch clean by placing a bucket underneath the basket to catch the excess water that runs through.
- When you hang a basket, make sure it doesn't interfere with traffic flow. Locate it where you won't have to duck every time you walk by.
- Hang the basket from a solid, secure hook. Nails and undersize hooks can bend, sending your basket on a long fall to the ground. 🏠

*For buying information see page 252.*

learn how  
online at  
bhg.com

# make your own faux-stone planters

Use hypertufa—a mix of simple, inexpensive ingredients—to make containers. Beth Jimenez and Amelia Lane of Lasting Impressions Concrete Sculptures in Raleigh, North Carolina, have step-by-step instructions at [BHG.com/hypertufahow-to](http://BHG.com/hypertufahow-to).



**CONCRETE PLANS** Beth, at left, and Amelia mix perlite, peat moss, water, and concrete to create hypertufa, then mold the material into planters that look like hewn stone.



visit [BHG.com/hypertufahow-to](http://BHG.com/hypertufahow-to)