

Bring some houseplants outside for a summer vacation under the eaves. Ferns, Swedish ivy, and wandering Jew do well in a sheltered corner with half-light, as do baskets of nephthytis, philodendron, and airplane plant. Coleus and begonias will come back to life outdoors before they have to be moved inside in the fall.

If your houseplants are not in hanging baskets already and you don't want to transplant them, drill three holes in the rims of their saucers, and use chain to hang the saucers and pots together. Rope hangers can be slipped over pot and plant to make it into a hanger, as can nylon monofilament hangers, which are so thin and transparent they give the plants the illusion of hanging in midair.

Bright blooms of color can come to foliage houseplants by adding seeds or seedlings to the pot in spring. These can be pulled in fall when the plants come inside and the flowers start to fade. Double-check the houseplants for any hitchhiking insects.

To keep your baskets looking their best, keep faded flowers picked off, feed with liquid fertilizer twice each month, and hang them where they will be out of the wind.