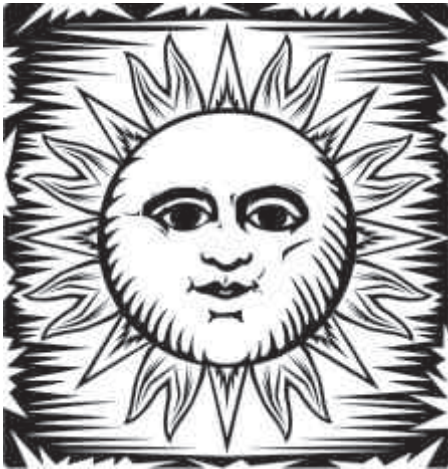


## Hanging Basket Care



**When to water:** Check daily for moisture level. Water only when dry. However, don't count on the rain to do the job. 90% of the time, the rain is not sufficient to penetrate the thick foliage. Even if it does, it usually only dampens the first inch of soil and doesn't get down to the roots. So even in rainy weather, check the basket daily.

**Summer heat:** Remember as the days get hotter in summer, you'll need to water more frequently than in spring or fall. Some baskets and hanging bags may need watering twice a day in the heat of summer.

**Fertilize:** All baskets and containers need fertilizer once a week with 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 because the nutrients leach out with frequent watering. Or you can add a granular fertilizer once per season which you can purchase at our check-out counter.

**How much water:** When watering, fill the basket to the top with water even if the soil is 2-3" below the basket rim. It will probably require 5L of water per 12" fibre basket. You can over-water and this is just as bad as under-watering, so check daily before watering.

**No extra soil, please:** The baskets you purchase from Springbank do not need to be topped up with soil. In fact, it is harmful to the plants to do so.

**If you're going away for a weekend:** The best thing is to get someone to water your baskets. The next best alternative is to water thoroughly and set the baskets in a shady spot out of the drying wind.

**Problems? Don't wait. Come see us:** If you have been watering and fertilizing but your basket flowers are going downhill, PLEASE bring it back and let us have a look at it for you. (We are open daily until the end of July—and closed the month of August.) We can usually pinpoint the problem early. Don't wait until it's nearly dead!

**Picking the right basket:** Choose a basket appropriate to your sun/shade requirements. Springbank baskets all have tags at the top—green denotes partial shade (no hot afternoon sun); yellow—full sun and blue—mostly shade.

**Fibre vs. plastic:** Fibre baskets are better than plastic since they retain moisture better and are 12" wide so they have more soil volume and don't dry out as fast as the smaller plastic baskets.

**Special care for hanging bags:** Our hanging bags are also larger than average, again to retain water better. Bag watering is a little different. Fill bag to the top once and let the water seep into the soil, then repeat procedure twice at each watering, then squeeze the bottom of the bag to make sure the water is getting to the bottom. If the bottom plants are not growing then you are not getting enough water to the bottom of the bag. You still need to fertilize once a week.

