

Children's Garden Club
Volume #7, Sheet 5
May 6, 2006
Hanging Gardens
Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center
2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the May Meeting!

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially Dave for hosting this month's meeting. Dave and Staff has a neat Hanging project for us today.

Spring is here and as you can see Sherwood's is overflowing with beautiful flowering plants. You can see Flowering - Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees. For the last three months we have been planting plants in containers, today we rise to the occasion and learn about aerial plants or using plants in Hanging baskets or wall baskets-planters.

As you know we are always looking for Fun & Creative ways to Educate and Learn about Plants-Gardening and Horticulture. Today we will see and do another way to display a lot of color in a little space. Hanging Gardens can give you this opportunity plus bring them into the spot light or great accents. These freewheeling baskets can immediately be striking with their dazzling flowers, graceful foliage, and use of plant forms giving a different perspective than growing them in the ground.

In growing hanging plants, you follow most of the same basic growing techniques used in container gardening. Now beyond them being surround by air on all side they are hanging and dry out quicker.

You have a wide selection of different kinds of plants and containers and methods of hanging your containers. By no means are you limited to a

group of plants (i.e. annuals, perennials, succulents, tropicals, ferns, even vegetables strawberries or cherry tomatoes).

Hanging plants offer a fresh, unique approach to freewheeling innovation. You can suspend almost any plant that will grow in a container just be aware of the height and weight. Hanging plants provide convenient solution to many enhancements to the landscape or interior decoration of softening harsh surfaces of walls, overhangs, define walkways, street lamp post and fill a empty corner.

If you consider the air as a gardening place, you realize that a hanging garden can give you the equivalent space of a new border or even a second backyard. All you need is an overhead support from which to hang your container – basket and let the fun and adventure begin, For a friend that was in a apartment with the terrace / sliding door faces the parking lot but wanted some privacy but do not want to feel closed in we made a wall of hanging basket a t different level and different plant that included vegetables. My Friend was able to have a flower garden and vegetables all in the same wall. We used cherry tomatoes, a basket of herbs, and cucumbers it became the talk of the complex and served the purpose, and in the winter it all came down and the Sun light came in when it was appreciated. We did learn to rotate the baskets to keep them lush on all sides.

This brings us to the point to consider the location and what you wish to accomplish and growing conditions (sun – shade). Think about the strength / structure, wind, and how close the nearest water, and the convenience of the location for you.

Estimate Sun – Shade – and Wind – Remember different plants require varying amounts of sun, shade, heat so you need to choose the location before you choose the plants. Also check to see that it isn't exposed to potential extreme heat or strong winds. Walls and fences, particularly those painted a light color, can reflect the sun's ray's and greatly increase their intensity, even burning or wilting specimens that tolerate direct sunlight. Locations not protected by fences and walls may be subject to winds that will rapidly dry out a plant and possibly disturb or break stems or even knock plant down. Try to avoid location where the hanging plant would be out of the way of traffic or block a view. Be considerate of water dripping from baskets and drainage holes onto carpet or patio/terrace were water or stains should not be.

Trees as long as they are strong enough not to bend or break under the weight plant & container while with the weight of the water. The effects can be quite pleasing casual, informal garden touched with color in the air. Add some lanterns and you have new enchanted area.

Now that you have your location – Now it is time to choose those plants. Giving advice on choosing a hanging plant is similar to choosing anything you personally like color, texture, boldness, which is your personal taste. Generally, Plants with long trailing stem are a favorite for the edge/border of the basket, but always feel free to experiment and be creative. Consider the larger – upright plants for the center of the basket for there attractive foliage or magnificent blossoms.

Hanging a basket of herbs outside a kitchen door or window will offer you a fragrant and unique foliage and texture. Just plant an assortment putting the upright growers i.e. (parsley, chives, rosemary, basil) in the center and i.e.(oregano, thyme,) on the side to grow over the basket.