



How to Make a Flowering Gift Basket



Patty's Plants

What better gift for a garden enthusiast in the winter than a basket full of colorful plants. It's bound to put a smile on their face just seeing their new little indoor garden. Some new friends to play with in the middle of winter when the snowstorm is keeping them inside.

There are two ways to make your gift basket. One way is to plant all the flowers and plants you've picked out directly into the basket. The other is to set them individually into the basket. As individual plants the person you're making it for can take the plants out and set them all around their home.

There are many different seasonal flowers and plants to choose from. See my Article on: "Seasonal Flowering Plants from the Past to the Present" at pattysplants.com. Many of those flowers will work for this project. You can usually find them in season at your local garden shop.

For a Christmas or Holiday gift basket, I might choose these flowers: Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, Paperwhites or even Amaryllis. For green plants I would use, Norfolk Island Pine, English Ivy, Table Ferns, Peace Lilies or Dracaena Marginata, just to name a few. Ivies and ferns make great fillers. Once you've chosen the plants and basket it's time to put it together. (You can also use a decorative container).

How to plant:

- Line the basket with heavy plastic. Leave a little plastic over lapping the basket to tuck under later.
- Place a small amount of gardening charcoal or perlite in the bottom of the basket. Since there isn't any drainage holes in the bottom, the charcoal will help to keep the soil from smelling sour. They both would act as an area for the water to drain into.
- Add a small amount of good potting soil, add a little worm castings for natural nutrients.
- (make sure to moisten the soil first, it's easier to work with and the soil won't settle as much when you water.
- Arrange your flowers and plants in the basket. Put the taller plants in the back and the fillers plants in the middle with the trailers hanging over the side. This is of coarse if you are making it one sided to put up against a corner or wall. Otherwise put the taller plants in the center and shorter around the outside.
- If using a certain color in the backdrop, repeat the same color in the front opposite from each other to tie it all together.
- Fill in with the rest of the soil when you have the plants right were you want them. Firm the plants in place. Tuck the overlapping plastic under or cut off.
- Add spanish moss around the basket to give it a finished look. You can also add an ornament or garden related item at this time.
- If you are just setting the plants in, use styrofoam chunks to raise shorter plants or to secure them in place. Let the person you are giving it to know the plants have to be watered separately.
- Water the planted basket carefully. It should dry slightly between watering as it does not have any drainage holes or make sure all the individual plants are watered .
- Give a recipe card with the plants names on it and how to care for the planted basket or how to take care of the plants individually.
- When taking it out in cold weather put it in a protective cover or bag and warm up the car. You want it to arrive alive. Have a Great Holiday!