



- 1 'The Line' coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides* 'The Line', USDA Hardiness Zone 11)
- 2 Feather grass (*Stipa tenuissima*, Z 7-11)
- 3 Flying Colors™ Red diascia (*Diascia Flying Colors™ Red*, Z 8-9)
- 4 Superbells® Pink Kiss calibrachoa (*Calibrachoa Superbells® Pink Kiss*, annual)
- 5 'Black Heart' sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas* 'Black Heart', Z 11)
- 6 Supertunia® Royal Velvet petunia (*Petunia Supertunia® Royal Velvet*, annual)

Build a better hanging basket

For a full look, it's important to plant the sides as well as the top

by C. Dwayne Jones

A hanging basket can serve a variety of functions, from accenting a front porch to filling an empty wall. No matter what the purpose, hanging baskets offer an opportunity to play with plant combinations to create a riot of color. Today's ever-shrinking landscapes mean fewer places to cultivate. Planting a hanging basket may be just the ticket for expanding your gardening realm. It is also one of the easiest ways to connect your garden with your home.

Trailing plants are traditionally used in hanging baskets with three plants of the same variety planted in the top. Another way to craft a hanging garden is to use an open-sided basket and plant the sides, as well, a technique that allows me to use three to four times the number of plants as in a traditional basket. I usually use a jumble of clumpers and trailers to create the illusion of masses of color and texture. I also mix in a few plants with great foliage to add interest throughout the growing season.

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