HOW TO MAKE A PATIO POT OR HANGING BASKET

Making a beautiful patio pot or hanging basket is a great way to add color and greenery to your outdoor space. Here's how to do it:

1. Choose the Right Pot or Basket:
   - Wire Baskets with Coco Liners: Great for drainage and airflow.
   - Plastic Hanging Baskets: Retain more moisture, ideal for hot and windy climates.
   - Ceramic Pots: Decorative and long-lasting. Place a plastic pot inside for easy movement and disposal.

2. Select the Best Soil:
   - Use lightweight, well-draining potting mix (avoid garden soil, which is too heavy).
   - Mix in slow-release fertilizer to feed plants over time.
   - Add moisture-retaining crystals to help with retaining moisture.

3. Pick Your Plants: (Follow the Thriller-Filler-Spiller Method) Refer to our sheet "Thriller, Filler, Spiller Annuals" for a full list.
   - Thrillers (Tall & Eye-Catching): Adds height and drama. Examples: Geraniums, Angelonia, Coleus, Dracaena spikes. (Thrillers are optional for Hanging Baskets)
   - Fillers (Lush & Full): Adds volume and color. Examples: Petunias, Begonias, Euphorbia, Lantana.
   - Spillers (Trailing & Flowing): Softens edges and cascades down. Examples: Bacopa, Sweet Potato Vine, Creeping Jenny, Ivy, Million Bells.

4. Planting:
   - Start by placing the thriller in the center.
   - Surround with fillers, leaving room for growth.
   - Position spillers around the edges to trail over the sides.

5. Watering & Maintenance:
   - Water daily in warm weather, ensuring water reaches the roots.
   - Fertilize every 1-2 weeks with a liquid fertilizer for continuous blooms.
   - Deadhead spent flowers to encourage more blooms.

Patio Pot and Hanging Basket Combination Ideas for Different Situations:

Shade Loving Combo: Coleus, Fuchsia, Creeping Jenny

Heat loving Combo: Geraniums, Petunias, Sweet Potato Vine

High Wind Site: Geranium, Fan Flower, Vinca

Drought-Tolerant: Tall Purple Verbena, Lantana, Silver Falls Dichondra

Edible: Cherry tomato, Nasturtium, Strawberries

Hummingbird Attractant: Salvia, Petunias, Lobelia

McCord's Garden Center & Landscaping

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2720 McShane Drive, Monument, CO 80132

(719)375-3573 | www.mccordgardens.com