

Simple Wall Basket



Only one week after planting!



Salvia
(2 plants from 4" pots)



'Gay's Delight' Coleus
(4 plants from 4" pots)



Wax Begonia
(4 plants from 4" pots)



'Dark Star' Coleus
(4 plants from 4" pots)

Simple Wall Basket



16" single wall basket

Salvia, coleus, and begonias team up to create an easy arrangement - both to plant and to maintain. The salvia forms the centerpiece, and the other three plants are simply alternated around the edge and side. These tried-and-true plants have been high performers for generations. The color contrast of dark purple and lime green give this small arrangement its punch.

Planting Sequence



Step 1: For the side layer, alternate the begonias with the two colors of coleus.



Step 2: Plant the two salvias close together in the center.



Step 3: Repeat Step 1 around the edge. Be sure to put different plants above each other. (For full planting demo, see 'Step by Step Instructions')

Cultural Information

Light: Full sun to light shade. Since wax begonias are sold for sun or shade, be sure to choose those that fit your light situation. Most take sun until the temperatures hit the low 90's. The red-leaved varieties take sun in higher temperatures, along with some of the newer, green-leaved types that should be labeled as sun begonias.

Season: Spring through fall for most areas. Also thrives in winter in areas where the temperatures stay above 38 degrees. This plant mix takes temperatures from about 38 degrees to the low 90's in full sun. In light shade, it withstands higher temperatures into the high 90's.

Lifespan: Two to four months in this container. Plants in small wall baskets live shorter lives than those planted in larger containers.

Care: Fertilize on planting day, and repeat every three months with a slow-release mix. About every three weeks or so, pinch the coleus to keep it from getting taller than the salvia, . Remove the dead flowers from the salvia if you feel energetic!

Water: Water when the plants show signs of wilt or the soil feels dry when you push your fingertip up to your second knuckle into the potting mix. I watered this one every day in mid summer and every other day in cooler weather.

Troubleshooting: After six weeks, the purple salvia was covered up by the coleus. It also suffered from lack of light because I planted another wall basket too close above it. Luckily, the other plants were so pretty that the arrangement still looked great without the purple flowers! Red salvia is taller than the purple and a better choice when surrounded by coleus.

Quantity of Plants: Quantities for this pot size are given on the plant photos (previous page). See the 'List of Products' section in this Web site for quantities needed for other container sizes and shapes.

Arrangement: Alternate the begonias, 'Gay's Delight' coleus, and 'Dark Star' coleus, around the side layer. Plant the salvias in the center. Alternate the begonias and coleus again around the top edge. (See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)

Flowers, Flowers!



Zinnia
(1 plant from a 1-gallon pot)



Torenia, Upright
(6 plants from a 4" pots)



Melampodium
(11 plants from a 4" pots)



Torenia, Upright
(6 plants from 4" pot)



Wax Begonia
(11 plants from 4" pot)

Flowers, Flowers!



20" double basic basket

This arrangement is a great choice for flower lovers. And it attracts lots of butterflies and bumblebees as well. The plant choice would have been simplified had I used just one color of torenia, but I had some left over from another basket, so I used two colors instead.

The torenia (upright) did better surrounded by these plants (begonias and melampodium) than in other combinations I tried. It tended to droop and required cut-backs when surrounded by semi-trailers like creeping Jenny. The begonias and melampodium actually helped hold it upright.



Basket on 48" column. Red verbena is planted in the ground underneath.

Cultural Information

Light: Full sun to light shade. Since wax begonias are grown or shade, be sure to choose those that fit your light situation. Most take sun until the temperatures hit the low 90's. The red-leafed varieties take sun in higher temperatures, along with some of the newer, green-leafed types that should be labeled as sun begonias.

Season: Spring through fall for most areas. Also thrives in winter in areas where the temperatures stay above 50 degrees. This plant mix takes temperatures from about 38 degrees to the low 90's in full sun. In light shade, it withstands higher temperatures into the high 90's.

Lifespan: Four to five months in this container.

Care: Fertilize on planting day with a slow-release mix. Repeat if the leaves start looking yellowish or washed-out. Remove the dead flowers from the zinnias if you feel energetic!

Water: Water when the plants show signs of wilt or the soil feels dry when you push your fingertip up to your second knuckle into the potting mix. I watered this one every day in mid-summer (after it was about a month old) and every other day in cooler weather.

Troubleshooting: The zinnia centerpiece got a leaf fungus. I replaced it with a grass when the basket was about three months old.

Quantity of Plants: Quantities for this pot size are given on the plant photos (previous page). See the 'List of Products' section in this Web site for quantities needed for other container sizes and shapes.

Arrangement: Alternate the melampodium, torenia, and begonia in the bottom side layer. Repeat for the top side layer, putting different plants on top of one another. Plant the zinnia centerpiece. Alternate the side-layer plants again along the top edge. (See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)

Great Basket on a Column!



Sweet Potato
(6 plants from 4" pots)



'Kong Scarlet' Coleus
(8 plants from 4" pots)



Creeping Jenny
(6 plants from 4" pots)



Dark Star Coleus
(3 plants from 4" pot)



**Torenia Catalina
'Midnight Blue'**
(4 plants from 4" pots)

Great Basket on Column!



20" double basic basket

Lime green and burgundy proved to be a very popular color scheme in my trial garden because this arrangement was many people's favorite. It was also reasonably easy to maintain.

Planting Sequence



Step 1: Place sweet potato vines in three opposite holes on the bottom layer. Alternate coleus and torenia in the other holes.



Step 2: Plant three small ti plants in the center.

Step 3: Alternate sweet potato, coleus, torenia, and creeping Jenny on the top side layer. Be sure to place the sweet potato opposite its bottom layer position.



Step 4: Alternate coleus, torenia, and creeping Jenny around the top edge. This photo was taken 3 weeks after planting.

(See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)

Cultural Information

Light: Full sun to light shade.

Season: Spring through fall for most areas. Also thrives in winter in areas where the temperatures stay above 40 degrees. This plant mix takes temperatures from about 40 degrees to the low 90's in full sun. In light shade, it withstands higher temperatures into the high 90's.

Lifespan: Four to five months in this container.

Care: Fertilize on planting day with a slow-release fertilizer. Repeat if the leaves start looking yellowish or washed-out. Pinch the coleus to keep it from getting taller than the ti plants, about every three weeks or so. Trim the sweet potato as needed to keep it from taking over the arrangement - about every two weeks or so.

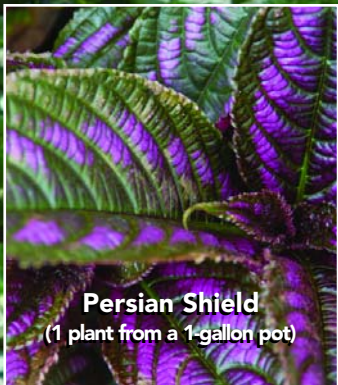
Water: Water when the plants show signs of wilt or the soil feels dry when you push your fingertip up to your second knuckle into the potting mix. I watered this one every two to three days in mid-summer. It was planted in light shade. If it had been in the sun, it would have required daily watering when the weather was hot.

Troubleshooting: The container shown at bottom left showed all plants that were planted quite well. The picture was taken three weeks after planting. Look at the difference with the one shown at right, which was two months old. The large coleus and sweet potato vine dominated the arrangement, with the less-aggressive torenia and creeping Jenny barely visible. I really liked this one, however, because it looked great for so long.

Quantity of Plants: Quantities for this pot size are given on the plant photos (previous page). See the 'List of Products' section in this Web site for quantities needed for other container sizes and shapes.

Arrangement: Whereas most of my arrangements are fairly simple, this one was quite complicated. It is spelled out in the "Planting Sequence" shown left. Basically, I just played with the plants, placing them opposite each other on the different levels to see how it would grow. It is fun to sometimes forego the 'definite pattern' and just do your own thing! *(See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)*

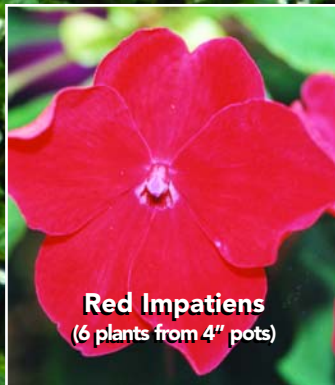
One of our Easiest!



Persian Shield
(1 plant from a 1-gallon pot)



Wax Begonia
(12 plants from 4" pots)



Red Impatiens
(6 plants from 4" pots)



Violet Impatiens
(6 plants from 4" pots)

One of our Easiest!



16" single basic basket

This beautiful basket was one of the easiest to maintain in our trials. Although impatiens require more water than most other plants, we kept the basket under oak trees. Since plants require about half as much water in shade, we only watered it every day in the hottest part of the Georgia summer. It required no pinching at all, meaning we didn't touch it for its fourmonth lifespan (other than watering).

I love the combination of jewel-toned purples and reds with stark white. The tailored look works well in both formal and informal gardens.



The flowers you plant under your baskets on columns make a difference to the overall look. The basket shown on the opposite page looks quite formal placed over tailored wax begonias. The same basket shown above looks less formal when placed over less-structured salvia.

Heights of the columns are also important. Size your column based on what you plan to plant underneath it. The column shown above is only 24 inches tall, which is too short for most gardens. The column opposite is 42 inches tall - much more appropriate for most underplantings.

I recommend columns of 36, 42, and 48 inch heights in plantings over flowers. Pansies and violas are the only common plants I found that are quite short for underplanting at these column heights. Adding trailing plants to baskets displayed over short plants solves this proportion problem because they soften the look of the tall, exposed columns.

Cultural Information

Light: Light to medium shade in most areas. This arrangement will take full sun but would need huge amounts of water in most areas. However, it takes full sun easily in cooler areas - like south Florida in the winter.

Season: Spring through fall for most areas. Also thrives in winter in areas where the temperatures stay above 33 degrees. In light shade, it withstands higher temperatures into the mid 90's.

Lifespan: Three to five months in this container. Lives longer in cooler weather, although it lasted four months for me in a hot Georgia summer!

Care: Fertilize on planting day with a slow-release mix, and repeat if the leaves start yellowing. The impatiens and begonias require no pinching. Persian shield may require pinching back if it gets leggy.

Water: Water when the plants show signs of wilt or the soil feels dry when you push your fingertip up to your second knuckle into the potting mix. I watered this one every day in mid-summer (after it was about a month old) and every other day in cooler weather.

Troubleshooting: No problems with this arrangement.

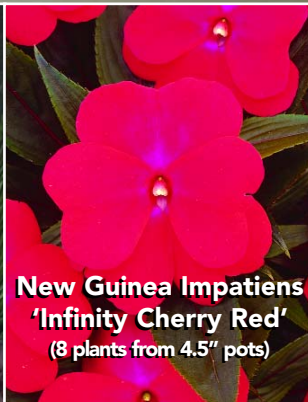
Quantity of Plants: Quantities for this pot size are given on the plant photos (previous page). See the 'List of Products' section in this Web site for quantities needed for other container sizes and shapes.

Arrangement: Alternate red and violet impatiens around the side layer. Plant the Persian shield in the center. Surround it with white begonias planted around the edge. (See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)

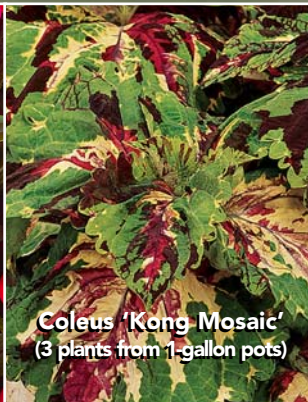
Pretty Window Box



Juncus 'Quartz Creek'
(2 plants from 1-gallon pots)



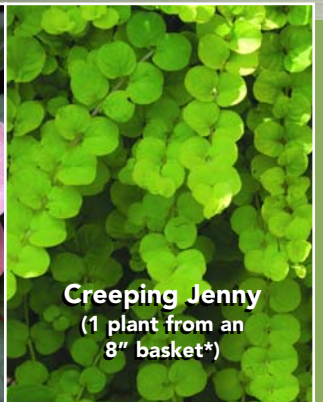
New Guinea Impatiens
'Infinity Cherry Red'
(8 plants from 4.5" pots)



Coleus 'Kong Mosaic'
(3 plants from 1-gallon pots)

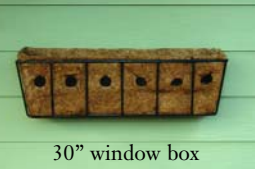


New Guinea Impatiens
'Infinity Salmon'
(8 plants from 4.5" pots)



Creeping Jenny
(1 plant from an
8" basket*)

Pretty Window Box



30" window box

Window boxes can transform the front of a house. A simple, plain window instantly becomes a focal point with the addition of a window box. They are even easy to hang! See the 'J' hooks for wall or window installations, or the rail brackets for easy installation on deck railing. These products should be available through your garden center

I usually use at least two centerpiece plants in window boxes because one does not fill it up enough. The *Juncus* 'Quartz Creek' is one of my favorites because its height is ideal, color is good, and it is very easy to grow.



Above, top: Companion window box.
Bottom: Window box shown on next page hung under window

Cultural Information

Light: Light to medium shade in most areas. Takes full sun in areas that are warm in the winter, like south Florida or southern California.

Season: Spring through fall for most areas. Also thrives in winter in areas where the temperatures stay above 38 degrees. This plant mix takes temperatures from about 38 degrees to the low 90's in full sun. In light shade, it withstands higher temperatures into the high 90's.

Lifespan: Three to five months in this container. Lives longer in cooler weather, although it lasted four months for me in a hot Georgia summer!

Care: Fertilize on planting day with a slow-release mix. Repeat if the leaves look yellowish or washed-out. Pinch the coleus to keep it full. I pinched this one about once a month. Trim the creeping Jenny if it gets too long.

Water: Water when the plants show signs of wilt or the soil feels dry when you push your fingertip up to your second knuckle into the potting mix. I watered this one every three days in mid-summer because I had it placed in quite a bit of shade.

Troubleshooting: The New Guinea impatiens were slow to bloom but did quite well after that.

Quantity of Plants: Quantities for this pot size are given on the plant photos (previous page). See the 'List of Products' section in this Web site for quantities needed for other container sizes and shapes.

Arrangement: This arrangement is different from most. I bought an eight-inch hanging basket of creeping Jenny and pulled long pieces apart at the roots. The side layer was planted with one New Guinea impatiens and a few tendrils of creeping Jenny in each hole. The *Juncus* 'Quartz Creek' and the coleus were planted in the middle. I planted the top edge with the rest of the impatiens, filling in with creeping Jenny wherever I could. (See 'Step by Step Instructions' for full planting demo.)