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## **HOW TO MAKE AN UPSIDE DOWN or CASCADING HANGING BASKET PLANTER FOR SINGLE OR MULTIPLE PLANTS**

### **Step 1. Materials needed**

A hanging coco fiber wire basket that has a hole in the bottom of the frame

Potting soil and slow release fertilizer

A support like a shepherd's hook or a beam with a strong hook to hang your basket from

Small plants like 6 pack size. If you want to do a single plant planter such as an upside down tomato, still use a small plant. If you are putting more than one plant in the planter, you want to use plants that will go well together in color and contrast. A theme of herbs, flowers, strawberries, vegetables such as lettuces, peas or bush beans can be used. Use plants that are appropriate for the area where you will be placing your planter, either sun or shade loving plants.

### **Step 2. Cutting the holes for the plants**

With a sharp knife, cut an x shaped hole in the bottom of the coco liner. Place the liner in the frame. Stop here if you only want a single upside down plant. For multiple plants, depending on the size of the pot, cut more holes in the sides of the liner, placing them randomly at least 6 inches apart to within 2 inches of the top of the liner. Poke your fingers in each hole to stretch it open so that the root balls will fit through easier.

### **Step 3. Planting the plant or plants**

Hang the basket up where you can work with it.

Put an inch of potting soil in the bottom of the basket, not covering the bottom hole.

Start with the bottom plant, compress the roots into a cylinder with your hands and push the root ball from the outside of the planter up into the hole. Ensure that the stem is not close to the frame of the pot.

Push the coco fiber back around the stem of the plant. Put some potting soil around the root ball to hold it in place. The leaves and stem of the plant will be on the outside of the pot. If this is a single plant pot, fill the pot with potting soil as directed. For multiple plants, add more soil to just below the next level of holes and place plants in these holes. Add more potting soil, pressing it down to secure the root balls of the plants. You do not want air holes in the soil. Sprinkle some slow release fertilizer as you add soil. Work your way around the pot, adding plants and soil until you reach the top. You can also add a few plants to the top of the pot. These will fill in and spill over the top completing the look of the cascading planter. Your single plant planter will grow from the bottom up, reaching up along the outside of the planter.

#### **Step 4. Watering needs**

Water the planter well. If the soil settles below 1 inch of the top, add more soil and water again. Your planter will need to be watered daily or put on a drip system. Do not let it dry out.

As your plants grow, cut back any long, leggy branches. It is a good idea to pinch back all the plants once or twice to ensure they grow really lush and full. If you make a strawberry planter and you get too many runners, you can make more plants by cutting off the runners and putting the end with the new leaves in a pot of good soil. Cut off the stem of the runner. These baby plants will root and make more plants for another planter!