

# Hanging Basket & Container Care Guide for Boise and Treasure Valley Gardens

*A local gardening guide from Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses  
Boise, Idaho*

Our hanging baskets and container gardens add beautiful seasonal color to patios, porches and yards throughout Boise and the Treasure Valley. Follow these simple care tips from Five Mile Farm to keep your baskets healthy, full and blooming all season long.

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## **PLANT LOCATION**

Choose a suitable location in terms of sun, shade and wind. If you are unclear of a pot or basket's specific needs, please ask.

## **WATERING**

The frequency of watering will depend on the weather, location and the types of plants. Generally, potting soil in the pot or basket should be moist but not soggy. Don't allow plants to wilt between watering. Water thoroughly using a watering wand. If basket or pot is dry and water runs through quickly, follow up with another watering a few minutes later. It's important that your pot or basket get a good, thorough watering each application. Overwatering can lead to problems, so refrain from watering deeply if the soil is already very moist.

## **FERTILIZING**

Five Mile Farm recommends fertilizing your hanging baskets and container gardens with a water-soluble blossom booster such as Fertilome Blooming & Rooting Plant Food or Jack's Blossom Booster. Apply the fertilizer to pot or basket every two weeks during the spring. When summer arrives and you are watering daily, we recommend fertilizing once a week using half the recommended strength. It is important to ensure soil is always moist before applying fertilizer.

## **DEADHEADING & CLEANING**

Remove spent flowers to promote additional flowering.

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Five Mile Farm & Greenhouses  
Boise's Local Garden Center Since 1983  
2940 S Five Mile Rd | Boise, Idaho



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## **COMMON PESTS**

Certain flowers are more prone to specific pests so it's important to first identify what is causing a problem before taking action. A couple of the more common pests in hanging baskets are budworm and aphids.

### **Budworm**

Geraniums and petunias are targets for budworm. Signs of budworm will be holes in flowers or reduction in the number of blooms in a basket or pot. BT (often sold as 'Caterpillar Killer') is an organic pesticide effective at killing budworm and is safe for people, pets and pollinators. Weekly preventative applications can be beneficial in ensuring budworms do not cause damage to your baskets or pots.

### **Aphids**

Aphids are attracted to many types of flowers in the garden. This pest sucks juices from leaves and can cause discoloration, leaf curling and stunted growth if not addressed. A good first round of aphid control is to blast the infected leaves with a forceful stream of water to remove them. Various organic pesticides can be an effective way to manage aphids without harming people, pets and beneficial insects. Fertilome Triple Action Plus, Neem, Spinosad and horticultural oils are all soft pesticides that can work well to control aphids. To protect pollinators, it is important to apply pesticides early in the morning or at dusk when pollinators are not active.

## **SPRING WEATHER TIPS**

Idaho weather can fluctuate a great deal in the spring. It is very important to be aware of the night and early morning temperatures when placing your baskets or pots outside. **Take the necessary precautions to make sure your pot or basket is not subject to freezing temperatures.**

*Five Mile Farm guarantees the quality of our plants while they are on our premises and strives to help customers maintain that quality throughout the growing season. Following the recommendations in this guide will help ensure the long-lasting beauty of your container or hanging basket.*

*No warranty is expressed or implied after purchase. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding proper care.*

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