

# VERTICAL GARDENING

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Gardens on Spring Creek

## WHY?

- Grow more plants in less space
- Vertical solutions for garden eyesores
- Enhance skinny side yards
- Amaze your friends!



## LIVING WALLS

- Large systems are usually hydroponic – very complex and very expensive.
- Homeowner commercial systems – look for them online:  
[Woollypocket.com](http://Woollypocket.com)  
[florafelt.com](http://florafelt.com)  
[vertigarden](http://vertigarden)  
[verticalhomegardens.com](http://verticalhomegardens.com) - phytopods  
[sgplants.com](http://sgplants.com) – succulent gardens  
grovert – Bright Green
- DIY ideas – use frames with hardware cloth, shutters, lattice, sew felt or landscape fabric pockets, gutters on a fence or wall, PVC cut in half and suspended with chains – search vertical gardening and be amazed at all the ideas
- Plan for irrigation – they will dry out quickly.
- Large vertical gardens are HEAVY! Plan on strong supports.
- East facing is ideal – full sun is too hot for anything growing in a vertical system here.
- Fertilize regularly.
- Plant choices – choose plants with colorful foliage for a longer season of interest:  
Hardy succulents – sedums, hen & chicks  
Tender succulents – *Crassula*, *Echeveria*  
Grass-like – *Carex*, *Liriope*  
Coral bells, *Heuchera*  
*Lamium*  
Greens – lettuce, small mustard greens – plan to change out regularly

## TRELLISING

- Ornamental vines
- Trailing vegetables – cucumbers, pole beans, peas, acorn/butternut squash – most need help getting started but can be trained to grow vertically.

## **VERTICAL GARDENS AS CAMOFLAGE**

- Use a vertical component to misdirect the eye away from a bad view.
- Can be trellis, tall plant, pergola, even a bright umbrella.

## **VERTICAL GARDENING TO ENHANCE NARROW SPACES**

- Narrow side yards are ideal for vertical gardens
- Trellis
- Espalier
- Brightly colored walls with nice hanging pots

## **DIRECTIONS FOR SUCCULENT HANGING BALL:**

- We used two 14" metal baskets with cocofiber lining, but any metal or plastic, open weave, lined baskets will work.
- We took the hangers off the top basket and used the hangers from the bottom basket to support both.
- Fill both baskets with potting soil, tamping it down firmly. We highly recommend adding drip irrigation line inside the baskets and eventually attaching this to a system.
- Wrap a garbage bag around the top basket and holding the ends tightly, flip it over onto the bottom basket. Pull the garbage bag out. Attach the baskets with wire or zip ties.
- Choose plants. Hen and chicks and sedums work well. Smaller plants are easier to plant.
- Cut small holes in the fiber basket lining. Take excess soil from around plant roots and push roots through fiber into soil inside. Continue cutting and planting, keeping most on top and sides. Holes on the lower part of the basket can leak soil.
- Water gently and well and keep in a protected area for a couple of weeks before hanging in a sunny location outside.

## **DIRECTIONS FOR VERTICAL WALL PLANTER, LIKE OUR SCRATCH N' SNIFF WALL:**

- Build a wooden box using a piece of trellis for the front. Paint as needed. Line the box with landscape fabric, stapling to the sides, to keep the soil from running through the trellis.
- Fill the box with soil, packing firmly since it will settle when raised vertically.
- We strongly recommend adding drip irrigation tubing in the soil to facilitate watering.
- Cut small x's in the fabric and tuck the roots of small plants into the soil below.
- Water thoroughly.
- Let the planter lay horizontally for a couple of weeks so the plants begin to root before lifting it vertically.