



### Watering:

- Plants need consistent watering to survive and fertilizer to thrive.
- Full sun, warm temperatures and windy days will cause them to dry out even faster.

#### Check plants daily to see if the container is dry:

- **Use Your Hands** - Stick your finger into the soil. If the top 3-4" are dry you should water.
- **Lift or Tip the Container** - If the soil is dry, the container will be very light in weight.
- **Use a Moisture Meter** - used to measure the percentage of water in the soil. Available at your local garden center.

### Water Deeply - Water Twice:

- Water early in the morning and afternoon if needed.
  - It may be every morning in the heat of summer or consider using a self watering container which hold 1 to 2.46 gallons of water in a reservoir, reducing watering tasks to every 3 days.
- Using a sprinkler head or a watering wand attached to a hose.
  - Wait until the soil absorbs the water and expands. Water a second time to make sure all of the roots are thoroughly soaked.
  - Apply enough water until it runs through the soil and exits the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot with the first watering.
- Water a second time. The basket or pot will then be thoroughly soaked.

### Fertilizing:

- Nutrients leach out of the soil each time you water a basket or container.
- Add a slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote™ - to the potting soil mix at the beginning of the season.
- In addition, use a liquid or water-soluble fertilizer once a week - dissolve concentrated fertilizers in water (follow directions on the package for amount to use) before applying.
- Fertilizer can burn roots if it is not fully dissolved.

### Deadheading:

- Snip off faded and spent blooms at base of bloom (do not pull) with a pair of scissors or gardening shears (deadheading). This will encourage more flower production and improve the appearance of your baskets and containers.
- Ask your local garden center about annuals that do not need deadheading such as Supertunia®, Supertunia Vista series and Calibrachoa (Million Bells).

**Please Note:** When you reuse pots the next year, add new potting soil and slow release fertilizer.