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Foster a Flower

Posted by talkdirt
Posted: March 10, 2009 - 4:38 pm

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Two years ago municipal gardener Lee Sweeden worked among flower baskets at the municipal greenhouse readying them for the summer. Fran Durner/ADN

Municipal gardener Mary Susan Goocey says the gardeners at the muni greenhouses are busy, busy, busy, planting seeds and transplanting seedlings in anticipation of beautifying Anchorage streets and muni gardens this summer. Anchorage has become quite famous for its flower displays and hanging baskets, some of which are happy only in cooler climes and therefore wow visitors from warmer areas of the globe who can't grow the same things we do.



Baskets of lobelia and marigolds line 4th Avenue downtown. Erik Hill/ADN

Every year, the horticulture budget is in danger of being trimmed by the Assembly and I assume it's not any different this year, maybe even more so.

However, there is a way to help out by sponsoring a hanging basket through the Anchorage Parks Foundation **Foster a Flower** program. You can foster one basket for \$75 or two baskets for \$150. The foundation will display a plaque on a lightpost near your basket(s) recognizing your donation.

Talk Dirt To Me

Gardening in Alaska presents big challenges, whether it's the extra effort in finding plants tough enough to survive our Zone 2-4 climate, communicating with like-minded Alaska gardeners, or keeping up with the latest trends, issues and solutions. We'll try to help with that. We'll also tour gardens from Homer to Anchorage to Wasilla to Willow whenever we get the chance, and post the best garden photos around. Presenting a forum about cold-weather gardening and for cold-weather gardeners is what we are all about. We hope you'll join us on the Talk Dirt garden blog.



Photographer and gardener **Fran Durner** (fdurner@adn.com) writes the blog.

Photos

Readers' gardens



Share your photos of brilliant flowers, huge veggies and anything else garden-related.

Post your garden photo

2009 Garden galleries



Images from a full year of gardening in Alaska.

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Hanging baskets of ivy geraniums. Fran Durner/ADN

Check out the [online map](#) for basket locations to choose from. Then fill out the [online application form](#).

If you need more info, contact Wade Collins at 343-4460 or collinswa@muni.org.

Then remember to stop by and admire your basket this summer!

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- Alaska Plant Materials Center:
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Garden Blogs

- Alison's Lunch
- Delta Junction garden blog
- Mat-Su Valley garden blog

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- May Garden Calendar - 4/30/2009 3:20 pm
- Use what you've got for staking plants and trellises - 4/29/2009 10:53 am
- Flowers are a-bustin' out at the Muni Greenhouse - 4/28/2009 4:24 pm

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