

THE NEWS/home&gardening

One great invention.

Many of us have a love-hate relationship with our hanging baskets.

On the one hand we adore the cascade of colour that we hang off our porches, decks or fences, and

yet that colour comes at a price of constant watering. Forget to dispense the H₂O just one day and that cascade of colour becomes a crispy brown eyesore.

Enter inventor Al Muxlow and business partner/salesman extraordinaire Harold Elzinger, both of whom are bringing the Basket Booster Self-Watering System to anxious hanging basket owners everywhere.

What is the Basket Booster Self-Watering System you ask? Simply put, it is an automatic watering valve fed by 1/8" poly tubing fitted to a reducer cap that can be threaded onto any standard hose fitting. The basket hangs on the watering valve that regulates flow depending on weight - a dry or light basket will receive more water, while a heavy basket might receive none.

There is no gimmick here; you don't need batteries, a filter, a pressure regulator or a wad of cash. This is simply a low-tech watering system that won't cost you a fortune or take hours to assemble.



Gardening
Mike Lascelle



Mike Lascelle's Demonstration Model

Al Muxlow and Harold Elzinger have developed a nifty new product to ensure hanging baskets and planter boxes are watered automatically, and perfectly, called the Basket Booster Self-Watering System.

I have had a demonstration model set-up at work in a very hot exposed site, and in three weeks, that basket has been perfectly watered with not a drop of moisture on the ground below. When I went to meet Al at Harold's Maple Ridge home, I was able to see baskets and planters (the valve can also be used for planters) that had been on the system all summer and they were in pristine form.

This system operates with very little pressure, so it can even work on well water or with solar-powered pumps (Harold had one set up) for cottage applications.

Urban homeowners can simply attach the reducer cap to a two-way valve and using the supplied T-connections, can have up to 50 baskets or planters operating on a single line. You don't even need to blow it out or

bring it in for the winter, as the system is freeze-proof.

To find out where the Basket Booster Self-Watering System will be available, contact Harold at northco@telus.net.