

## **A CHEAP DRIP FEEDER**

Hanging baskets and pots dry out very quickly in any weather due to the wind blowing through the leaves and removing water from these, re-hydrating these can be a real chore especially in the heat of summer.

There are specially made 'drippers' that can be bought which are screwed onto bottles and placed above the baskets or pots releasing water at a defined rate. This can be replicated simply and cheaply by using a small bottle (500ML) with the type of top that allows you to have a drink then press the top to close (pic 1).

The whole of the bottom of the bottle should be cut off (pic 2), training wire can be used to wrap around the base and form a handle/hanger (pic 3). The bottle can be hung over the basket/pot and filled with whatever you are feeding or watering (make sure the bottle top is closed at this point) (pics 4 & 5). By gently tapping the top of the bottle with your finger nail you can adjust the drip rate from the top. When you get the desired rate of drips ( pic 6) make sure that the top of the bottle is below the top of the foliage and you will avoid any scorching of the leaves. You can if you wish 'superglue' the top in place when you get the desired drip rate, otherwise you can just set the rate each time you fill the bottle if the top has moved.



**1**



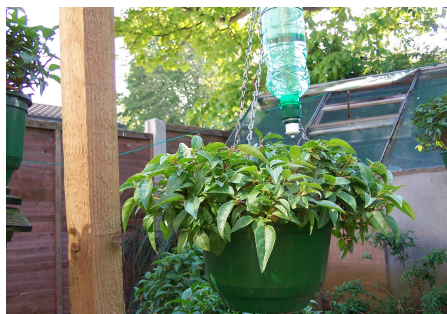
**2**



**3**



**4**



**5**



**6**

There you have it, a cheap drip feeder that will ensure that your baskets and hanging pots don't go dry and you don't get wet when watering, just remember to fill as required. I suppose that with a few canes and a bit of 'Heath Robinson' this method can be adapted to drip feed any pot.