



# live it up

Auckland designer **Tracey Peryman**, of Vertical Plantscapes, plants and installs a living wall panel. Add extra panels as desired to cover as much or as little of the wall as you choose.

## You will need:

- 1 Vertical Plantscapes Living Wall panel
- 20 litres of high quality potting mix
- Waterproof drop cloth to protect working area
- Watering can
- Level
- Wooden spatula or blunt knife
- Small or shallow-rooted potted plants either in plugs or small pots to suit the chosen site – one for each of the 45 cells in a panel or less with plants that will spread to cover a number of cells. Tracey uses alyssum and violas as one example.

## Handy hints:

- If you are planting the panels with young plants or seedlings, leave the panel horizontal until they become established.
- Take care when a panel is sitting flat not to overwater it – the drainage is designed to work when the panel is vertical.



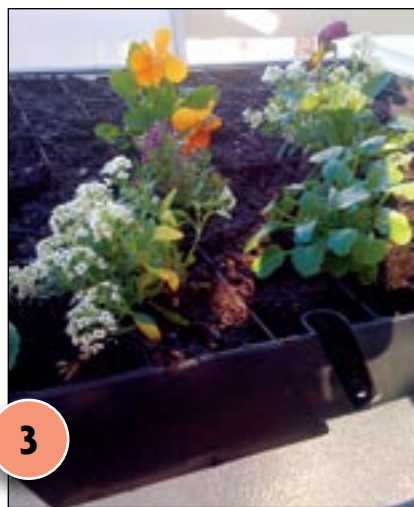
1

Decide where to hang your panel or panels. Note the fixing point a third of the way down on the left where each panel is fixed to its horizontal mounting strip (which runs the full width of the panel to spread the weight.)



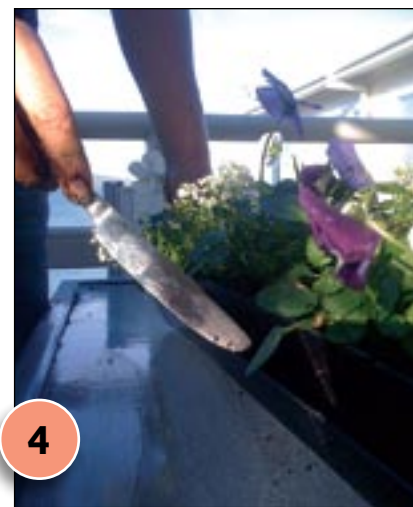
2

Fill the panel with potting mix so all cells are filled to the top, pressing the mix very firmly into each cell. Dig a hole in a cell for a plant and plant it, pressing firmly around its base to anchor it and the mix.



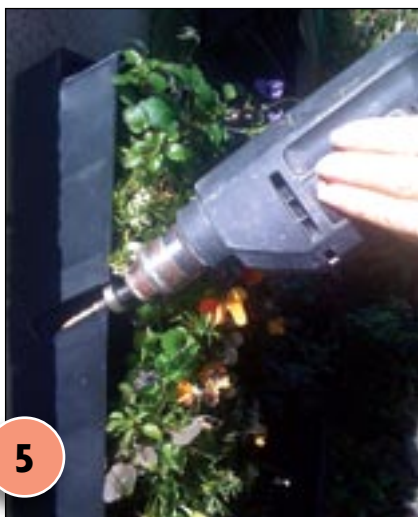
3

Plant the rest of the plants at spacings appropriate for their mature size and spread, pressing them and the mix in firmly. Water enough to moisten the soil but not enough to saturate it.



4

Add extra soil as necessary to fill up all the cells. Clean out the channel at the top of the panel with the blunt knife or spatula to allow for proper water flow and drainage. Stand the panel up.



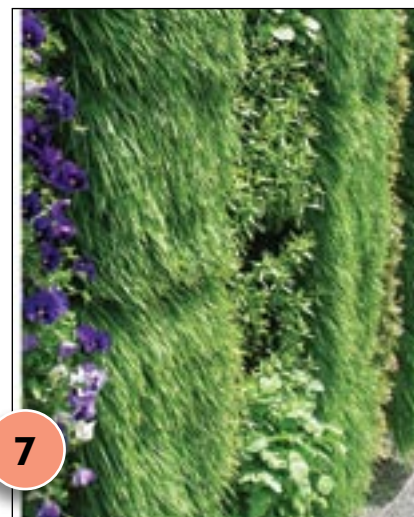
5

Fix the mounting strip to the wall where the panel will hang, using a level to get it perfectly level so water will flow evenly through the panel channels. Screw your planted panel at its fixing point to its mount as shown.



6

The finished effect. Plant up more panels as desired to cover a larger area – they can be butted up against each other.



7

Use the same plants to create a mass effect or different ones to create a pattern, as shown here.



## Planting options:

Liriope, native scleranthus, and some smaller ferns are good perennial plant options or you can grow strawberries, perhaps mixed with bedding begonias (as shown here) or mesclun and other small salad plants in the panels.

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