



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Sept/Oct 2004



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A "Face" for Three Seasons

Wes Karst, Johnson's West 13th Greenhouse Manager

September is here and so are the bright faces of winter-hardy pansies at Johnson's. Nothing says fall like the arrival of pansies and the first blooms on our fall crop of mums. Which, by the way, make a good combination for reviving a flower bed for the fall. Other good fall combos are pansies and flowering kale; pansies along with your marigolds in their fall glory; or pansies with our new bud-blooming heathers!

Fall is also the time to plant for a spring combination of pansies and tulips. You can plant your tulip bulbs along with your pansies this fall with the promise of a beautiful two-layer effect in your spring flower bed.

When planted in the fall, pansies bloom well into December and are hardy even in our coldest winters, surviving temperatures of -20 degrees. When temperatures get below 10 degrees, the plant will go dormant. Blooms usually reappear by February and with very little care, you'll enjoy pansies through the spring and into the early summer until the summer heat takes its toll.

A key to keeping your pansies looking their best for three seasons of color is good soil preparation. To get pansies off to a healthy start, mix ferti•lome Premium Pansy Food and Cotton Boll Compost into the soil at planting time. Water in well with ferti•lome Root Stimulator. Plant pansies in a sunny, protected, well-drained location. Part shade is okay, but heavy shade may keep your pansies from blooming properly. Mulch pansies to retain soil moisture and to provide insulation. We recommend Cottonseed Hulls because they form a compact mat around the pansies, working just like a blanket to keep pansy roots comfortable this winter. If we have a dry fall or winter, remember to water your pansies. ■