



Johnson's Garden Talk

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

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VOLUME 19 / ISSUE 3
September / October 2007



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The Many Faces Of Winter-Hardy Pansies

Karen Hull, Johnson's East Greenhouse Manager

You know fall has arrived when pansies are on the tables at Johnson's. Everyone loves pansies. These tough little plants have become a welcome addition to fall landscapes in Kansas. Pansies come in all colors except green (maybe next year) and will be a showstopper in your landscape.

Pansies come in solid colors and there are pansies with "faces." Some pansies can have as many as three colors, some have ruffles. New introductions this year are Northern Lights and Blue Velvet. Northern Lights is a mix of lemony yellow and lavender with whiskers. Blue Velvet is a velvety navy blue with a dark blue-black blotch. These two new pansies look great planted together with the Blue Velvet accenting the Northern Lights. Blue Velvet also looks good with Rose Pansies. We'll also have a new viola called Peach Jump Up, a salmon-peach with purple edging. (*Newer varieties are typically available later in the season.*)

Pansies prefer cool and cold weather. When planted in the ground this fall, pansies will overwinter to -25° and you'll enjoy blooms in the fall, winter and spring. Pansies also look great in containers and window boxes. Keep in mind that containers lack the insulation of the ground and pansies usually will not overwinter in pots.

Pansies look great planted with mums and spring flowering bulbs. Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths blooming with pansies create a beautiful spring explosion.

What FUN fall is with the arrival of these cheery blooms! If you haven't planted pansies before or if you are already hooked on pansies, we have the right colors for you. And that is the only problem with pansies ... choosing the colors! ■