



Praiseworthy Pansies ... For Three Seasons Of Color

It's time once again to find a spot in your garden for our favorite fall flower—the pansy! This fragile looking flower is actually a tough winter-hardy annual that thrives in the cool weather of fall, winter and spring. Only when the dog days of summer arrive will this sturdy flower succumb to the weather.

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

Pansies are especially fun to watch during snowy winters. The snow provides pansies with a heavy protective layer. Each time the snow melts, your faithful pansies will be there—still growing, still budding, and usually still blooming. Imagine peeking out your window on a cold winter day to see colorful pansy faces smiling back at you!

The hardest part about growing pansies is choosing your favorite color. Pansies come in all colors (except green) ranging from pastel watercolors to black. Pansies are available with the familiar blotched petals (the pansy "face") or in clear (faceless) colors. Blooms vary in size from tiny one-inch blooms all the way up to the large four-inch Super Majestic Giants series.

Violas look like small pansies and are the ancestor of modern pansies. Violas and pansies both may be planted in the fall for three seasons of color and are planted and cared for in a similar manner.



Planting and Care

- Plant pansies in a sunny, protected, well-drained location. Part shade is OK, but heavy shade may keep your pansies from blooming properly. (Violas will bloom in shady areas.)
- We recommend using the "buddy" system. Simply remove the pansies from their deep-center 4-pack and plant as a single unit. This helps pansies get established quickly. Separating the pack is not recommended. This puts too much stress on the plant and its root system.
- To get pansies off to a healthy start, mix ferti•lome Premium Bedding Plant Food and Cotton Boll Compost into the soil at planting time. Water in well with ferti•lome Root Stimulator.
- 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 and/or winter, remember to water your pansies.
- Fertilize with ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket and Pansy Food (20-20-20) every 7-10 days in spring when pansies are getting ready to begin their heavy blooming.

Pansies look great in mass plantings and also make excellent companions with mums for a fall show. Use pansies in beds, borders, pots or hanging baskets. But remember, pansies overwinter best when planted in the ground. For a beautiful spring bed, plant pansies with tulips for a two-layer effect in the garden. (See the other side of this handout.) If you've never planted pansies, try it once and they're sure to become a regular part of your fall planting. Remember ... the hardest part is choosing the color!

Tulips with Pansies for Spectacular Spring Color

For an EXPLOSION of color in your spring garden ... plant tulips under your pansies this fall. When planted together now, pansies and tulips will bloom together in the spring, providing spectacular color in your garden. For your pansy and tulip display, follow these simple planting instructions:

1. First, choose a location that gets full or part sun.
2. Dig the entire bed area to about 6" deep. Mix Hi-Yield Bone Meal, Dutch Bulb Food and Back to Earth Cotton Boll Compost into the soil. (See Dutch Bulb Planting Package below.)
3. Plant your bulbs about 4-6" deep and 6-8" apart. Cover the bulbs lightly with amended soil.
4. Remove the pansies from their deep-center 4-pack and plant as a single unit between the bulbs—about 6" apart. Don't worry if you plant pansies directly over the bulbs. The tulips will find their way up! Fill in around the pansies with the remaining amended soil.
5. Water the pansies and bulbs with ferti•lome Root Simulator to establish a healthy root system.
6. Apply mulch to help keep the soil moist and to protect the pansy roots this winter. We recommend Cottonseed Hulls.
7. If the winter weather is dry, water pansies and bulbs at least once a month as long as the ground is not frozen.
8. Fertilize pansies with ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket and Pansy Food (20-20-20) every 7-10 days in the spring when new growth begins.

Dutch Bulb Planting Package #BPP

Covers up to 50 sq. ft.

2-cu. ft. bag Cotton Boll Compost

4 lbs. Hi-Yield Bone Meal

4 lbs. Dutch Bulb Food

Purchase as a package and SAVE!



Revised 8-09