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## Pansies

Pansies are one of the most popular and recognizable cool weather annuals.

They will bloom best in full sun to partial shade, but will stay fresh looking and keep blooming longer if grown in partial shade as the weather warms. Most pansies don't get very tall, and if they do, they flop and cascade a bit. Expect most varieties to reach a height of 4-8 inches and to spread 8-12 inches.

Traditional pansies will bloom from spring through early summer, with some repeat bloom in the fall. As compact, low growers, pansies are ideal for edging and for squeezing between rock walls and paths, as long as they can be removed in the summer.

Although pansies are not fussy plants, they prefer to grow in loose, rich soil with a slight acid pH. If you allow your pansy plants to remain in your garden and rest during the hottest months, they will probably begin blooming again in the fall. Shearing the plants back when they start to set seed, will encourage new growth. Deadheading will also encourage more blooms.

As with any long blooming annual, pansies appreciate some fertilizer. However, too much will make them leggy, they respond well to monthly foliar feeding.

There are a few problems growing pansies. Slugs seem to be a nuisance during wet seasons, especially if growing in partial shade. Use a slug bait or thin out the planting so its less damp. Occasionally aphids will attack pansies, insecticidal soap should remove them.