



## Guide to Pansies

Pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*) are a cool weather favorite with very recognizable bloom faces.

Pansies are treated as both annuals and perennials, depending on the climate they are grown in. For our Ohio weather, they are mostly grown as annuals but with a different season of interest than other annuals like geraniums and petunias. They bloom in early spring until the weather gets hot in summer, then again in fall when the weather cools.

If winter time is not too harsh, pansies have been known to overwinter and bloom again in spring, all the way until the heat of summer the following year.

### Planting Pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*)

Plant pansies in full sun to partial shade (4-6 hours of sun per day) with fertile, well-drained soil that has a slight acid pH. They will look their best and keep blooming longer if they receive sun in the morning and shade during the hot afternoon sun.



Pansies will appreciate consistent watering. If they look floppy and thin, they may not be getting enough water. It is also beneficial to apply a fertilizer for blooming plants to help them look their best. For example, Espoma Organic Flower-Tone® 3-4-5 is a good choice (A fertilizer with too high of nitrogen will encourage foliage but not blooms).

Most pansy varieties will reach 4-8" tall and spread 6-8" wide. They can get leggy or start to flop over, its okay to trim them back and let them flush back out with new growth.

**Fall** planted pansies – plant them as soon as possible, keep them well watered so they get established in the new planting site. Provide a protective layer of mulch to help them retain moisture and to survive the freezing and thawing winter weather than can sometimes heave plants from the ground. Mulch material can be straw, evergreen clippings or hardwood mulch.

### Issues or Problems

Slugs can be a nuisance during wet spring weather. The use of slug bait sprinkled around the base of plants should do the trick. Occasionally aphids will attack pansies, Insecticidal Soap or Eight® Insect Control should take care of them.

### Quick Tips:

- Give full sun to partial shade location – protected from hot afternoon sun
- Remove faded, dead flowers to encourage new ones
- Keep well-watered, not enough moisture can cause failure with growing pansies