



Pansy & Viola Care Sheet

Pansies and modern violas are the descendants of Johnny Jump-Ups (*Viola bicolor*), the small tri-color flowers that bloom in the spring. The name pansy comes from the French word “pensee”, which means “thought”. It was believed many centuries ago, that pansies could make your lover think of you. The pansy flower we know today can be traced to an English estate gardener named Thompson who experimented for thirty years before producing a plant with the hardiness of a Johnny Jump-Up but with larger more diverse flowers. The pansies of today bloom longer, are more disease resistant, and are more heat and cold tolerant.



PLANTING

Choose a sunny location in your landscape that has good soil drainage. The more shade your plants are in the less compact the plants will be and fewer blooms will be produced. For container planting, use a commercial potting mix. In the ground, a rich organic soil is ideal. If the soil needs improving, composted cow manure and pine bark soil conditioner are excellent amendments. When planting, water plants a few hours before removing them from the pack or pot. Dig planting holes slightly larger than the rootball. Pansies should be planted about the same depth as they are growing when purchased. We recommend incorporating a general purpose fertilizer (10-10-10 or 5-10-10) or one formulated for pansies such as Ferti-lome™ Premium Bedding Plant Food into the soil at the time of planting. Water thoroughly after planting.

FERTILIZING

After incorporating fertilizer into the soil at the time of planting, many gardeners will later come back and topdress the bed with blood meal (12-0-0) at a rate of 1 lb. per 25 pansy plants. Others will supplement with a liquid application of Bloom Booster Flower Food™ fertilizer or a similar fertilizer labeled to promote blooming. Ferti-lome Premium Bedding Plant Food is a granular fertilizer that is also excellent for follow-up fertilizing and will help keep pansies at peak production.

WATERING

Don't wait for newly planted pansies to show signs of wilt before watering. A little extra attention in the first few days after planting will ensure healthy plants. In the landscape, use water wisely by watering slowly and deeply. Plants in containers will need water more frequently because potting soil dries out more quickly.

MULCHING

Adding a layer of mulch will help conserve water in the bed and cut down on weeds. We have found pine bark or pine straw mulch to work best.

resources used to prepare this handout: *Garden Flower Folklore* by Laura Martin, Park Seed Catalog, and the Ball Seed Catalog.

Remember that very few plants are totally resistant to the predations of deer, and no list of plants will be iron-clad against them. If food becomes scarce, deer will be less choosy about what they eat. In addition to plants that deer seem to avoid, we have included a list of plants that deer love to eat. Besides these plant lists, there are a number of techniques you can deploy to help keep them out of the garden. For more information, see the additional sections of this handout that provide tips on chemical and physical deterrents.

Annuals and Biennials

Ageratum (*Ageratum houstonianum*) - part sun to shade
Angelonia (*Angelonia* hybrids) - sun
Bacopa - sun
Blue Daze (*Evolvulus glomeratus* 'Blue Daze') - sun
Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*) - sun to light shade
Blue Salvia (*Salvia farinacea*) - sun
Cleome (*Cleome hasslerana*)- sun
Euryops Daisy - sun
Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana* spp.) - sun
Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis* spp.)- part sun to light shade
Foxglove (*Digitalis* spp.)- part sun to light shade
Lantana (*Lantana* spp. & cvs.) - sun
Marguerite Daisy (*Argyranthemum* spp.) - sun
Marigold (*Tagetes* spp.) - sun
Melampodium (*Melampodium padulosum*) - sun to part sun
Plectranthus - part sun to light shade
Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum rubrum*) - sun
Scaevola spp. - sun to part sun
Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*) - sun to part sun
Vinca (*Catharanthus rosea*) - sun to part sun
Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp.) - sun

Perennials

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache* spp.) - sun
Aster spp. - sun
Astilbe spp. - morning sun to light shade
Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia* spp.) - sun
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*, *D. eximia*)- part sun to shade
Bluebeard (*Caryopteris clandonensis*) - sun
Blue Star Flower (*Amsonia* spp.) - sun
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias* spp.) - sun to part sun
Candytuft (*Iberis* spp.) - sun