

Latin Name/Genus: *Viola x wittrockiana*

Family: *Violaceae*

Difficulty: Easy

Season: Warm Season

Exposure: Full-sun to partial shade

Zone: Hardy perennial to Zone 7 (typically grown as an annual)



Timing: If planting from seed, Pansy seeds should be stratified for two weeks to improve germination: cast seeds over a tray of seed-startling soil mix and moisten tray; keep tray covered with black cloth/dark covering until seeds germinate in approximately two weeks; remove covering and transfer tray to a bright location, keeping soil moist; when seedlings are a few inches tall and have at least two sets of true leaves, transplant into small pots, keeping them in a bright location until transplanted outdoors. If purchasing pansies from a nursery, choose baskets that are bushy, have plenty of buds, but are not full of open blooms (pre-exhausted).

Starting: Plant in garden at same depth as their nursery pot, in well-drained soil; leave 15-30cm (6-12") between plants for space to grow and proper air circulation. When planting in containers, avoid overcrowding (ie. 3-4 pansies in a 25-30cm (10-12") pot maximum).

Growing: Pansies grow best in loose, rich, slightly-acidic soil with a pH of 6.0-6.2. Garden-planted Pansies will likely take a rest from blooming during the hottest months, not liking the heat or high humidity, blooming before and after instead. Shearing Pansies back once they start to seed will encourage new growth; deadheading will encourage more blooms. Pansies don't mind full sun, but will stay fresh-looking and bloom for longer if grown in partial shade; keep soil well watered (but not soggy). Repot Pansies every two years or so in the early spring, when they seem to be outgrowing their containers; place in the sun after repotting.

Nutrient Preferences: Pansies are heavy feeders, enjoying soil amendments of mushroom compost to start; Pansies respond well to monthly foliar feedings with a balanced fertilizer, to avoid overfeeding (which could cause them to appear more spindly). With potted Pansies, adding a slow-release fertilizer to the potting mix when transplanting is ideal; continue feeding Pansies with a balanced liquid fertilizer every few weeks.

Blooms: Pansies bloom with ease, however, bigger blooms can be encouraged with balanced liquid fertilizer applications monthly, and by switching to a bonemeal fertilizer right before the blooming stage. Seeds can be collected from Pansy blooms that were not deadheaded – in the right climate, often times these seeds will readily take root once they drop from their plant.

Disease & Pests: The most common pest Pansies meet are deer; seek deer repellent, or companion plants that repel deer. Other issues include crown/root rot, powdery mildew, and other fungal problems



Pansy *Plant Care Information*

such as anthracnose, leaf spot, rust, and scab – ensure there is proper air circulation, irrigation, and fertilization in your Pansy plot.

Companion Planting: Pansies appreciate being planted near autumn fern, cabbage, coniferous evergreens, daffodils, dianthus, diascia, dusty miller, heuchera, holly, Japanese maples, junipers, lettuce, ornamental grasses, ornamental kale, osteospermum, nemesia, parsley, primroses, rosemary, snapdragons, sweet alyssum, swiss chard, tulips, violas, and yew – most other plants with similar soil and irrigation requirements.