



Know What You Grow!



Pansy

Scientific Name: genus *Viola*, in Violet family, *Violaceae*

Recommended Varieties:

- Wild pansy *Viola Tricolor* var. *Hortensis*
- Garden Pansy *Viola x wittrockiana*

There are 400—600 species. The most common are Tricolor and Johnny Jump Ups.

Pests/Diseases: Anthracnose, Cercospora Leaf Spot, Fusarium wilt, Pythium root rot and Scabs are common diseases.

This is photo of leaf spot from Penn State Extension.



Growing Information

Annual/Biennial/Perennial

Pansies are annuals or short-lived perennials.

Ideal Planting Window

Pansies prefer cool weather. They get leggy in hotter weather. Usually, this flower blooms in winter through early summer.

It varies by species, but Johnny Jump Ups and Garden Pansy grow in all zones including the Inland Valleys and Desert. In mild winter climates set out nursery plants in autumn for winter through spring bloom.

Growing Guidance

Pansies prefer rich soil in cool, damp climates.

The amount of sunlight exposure depends upon the variety. To prolong bloom pick faded flowers before they go to seed.

Sources: Sunset Western Garden Book, 2012; BritannicaKids



Fun Flower Facts

Different colors of pansy symbolize different emotions and feelings:

- Purple: nobility, beauty and royalty.
- Red: love and romance.
- White: innocence, purity and spirit.
- Blue: loyalty and honesty.
- Orange: happiness and optimism.
- Yellow: joy and positive energy.

The name pansy comes from the French word pensie, which means “thought”.

The pansy flower resembles a face. Each blossom has 5 petals with a “beard” in center.

In mid to late summer, the blossom looks like it is nodding forward as if in deep thought.

Pansies are the birth month of February.

Source: BritannicaKids

Contact Information



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Pollinators/Beneficial Insects



Bumble bees and moths of *Plusia gamma* are the best pollinators for pansies. Their pollination is necessary for the flower to set seed.

Pansies are great very early-season annuals that will provide a nectar source to bees and other pollinators emerging from hibernation in the spring.

Suggested Uses

Companion Plant For:

Dusty millers, dianthus, marigolds, petunias, snapdragons and chrysanthemums are all good companion plants. Pansies provide bursts of color in any garden, with 400-600 species to choose from.

Other Uses:



Did you know that pansies can be eaten? They have a mild evergreen flavor, and you can eat the entire blossom. Try putting them on a salad, in desserts or drinks, or on top of wedding cake.

Sources: BritannicaKids; Wikipedia

All Pansy Photos: Master Gardener B. Balo

Moth Photo: Wikipedia