

Pansy

Who doesn't like the smiling faces of Pansy and Viola? As the weather cools we see amazing varieties like this one in blazing fall oranges and rusts. This is a great plant for cool weather color and it's hardier than you think. The colors range from deep purples, brilliant yellows, whites, creams, two tones and even almost black. Tuck them into pots and baskets as the last of the summer flowers fade. Combine them with snapdragons, alyssum and calendulas for a show of cool weather color.



Size: 8" – 10" tall depending on variety.

Exposure: Full sun, partial shade.

How to Plant: Plant in fall or early spring during cool weather. Most available in 6 packs or 4 inch pots.

Fertilize: With an all purpose fertilizer regularly.

Pruning: prune back as they get leggy. In spring cut back to 2" tall and they will re-grow.

Water needs: regular watering, but can take dry spells and heat if shaded.

Soil: Pansies don't seem to be overly picky about soil, but don't let them sit in water.

Snapshot: Most don't realize that Pansies are actually a perennial. Though mostly planted as a cool season annual, they will come back after a good pruning, especially the Johnny Jump-Ups or Viola varieties. Some Johnny Jump-up re-seeds willingly. Keep flowers picked as they fade to prolong bloom. They are great for planting over a pot of bulbs, in mass or just to fill in holes in baskets. Not the greatest for the higher elevation but good for zones 7 and higher. They also make wonderful pressed flowers and sugared flowers on cakes.

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