

PANSY & VIOLA

Care Sheet · www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com · Ludlow, Massachusetts

Garden Care

- Full sun to part shade.
- Water once a week, especially during dry spells.
- Thrives in cool temps; does not like the heat.

Cold Grown: Better For New England

Started in the fall and raised over time with minimal heat, Cold Grown Pansies are tough. They're built to withstand the volatile weather of early spring in New England: chilling wind, rain, and even snow.

These Pansies are for early spring color that takes you through the rest of the season. It's a Boston Marathon strategy: maintain a steady pace rather than a quick sprint at the starting line. They've even been known to flower all the way to Independence Day!

Cold Grown Pansies bloom vigorously with more flowers per plant than typical Pansies. They thrive here in New England in early spring especially, because they love the sharp change between the chilly nights and sunny days.

Easy Color for Early Spring

Pansies and Violas are popular for the charming faces that give them character and for their extreme hardiness and adaptability. They come in a wide range of colors and are suitable for gardens and containers. These plants prefer the cool days and nights of early spring and start to fade when the temperature rises, so that's your cue to replace them with heat-loving annuals for summer.

Plant individual Pansies six inches apart in loose, rich organic soil and give them a good watering once a week, especially during dry spells. Fertilize once soon after you plant them, and then once every three weeks or so.

Consider the Viola

Smaller than Pansies yet similar in appearance, Violas have a couple of special features that make them different. They bloom about a week or two earlier than Pansies, and they have a much higher bloom count. Violas form a thick carpet of color so we use them in our Treasure Bowl. In the smaller four-inch size they're great for dabbing color into nooks and crannies around the garden, or filling cups, mugs, or unique little pieces of handcrafted pottery.



Many Faces of Pansies

Bearded Pansies

In England in 1833, the classic Pansy face blotch emerged in a sport called 'Medora' introduced by James, Lord Gambier. In some varieties the blotch takes the shape of a beard on the lower petal, giving the flowers their signature look and evoking many fond childhood memories.



Kitten Whiskers

Some Pansy and Viola faces are painted with thin brush strokes that look like kitten whiskers. Patterns of the whiskers vary from plant to plant, and even from flower to flower on the same plant. Kitten whisker faces are extremely cute so it's no wonder they're popular, especially planted in charming teacups!



Solid Color

Solid color Pansies are great for DIY landscaping. Planted en masse they create a bright beacon of color that can be seen from a distance. If you want to paint a bed with color, go with solids. A block of a single hue is effective, and an assortment of shades can be used to create unique designs.



Kabuki Style

Some Pansies have a white margin around the blotch or whiskers on their faces. It brings to mind the elaborate makeup worn by actors in Japanese Kabuki theater productions. Stark white focuses our attention on the dramatic expressions created by the blotches or whiskers. Mix some clear white Pansies in to heighten the drama.

