

PANSY & VIOLA

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

Cold Grown in Western Massachusetts

New Englanders love their Pansies. That's why we start ours in the fall and raise them over time with minimal heat—to toughen them up for early spring. Cold Grown Pansies are built to withstand the volatile weather of the season in New England: chilling wind, rain, and even a random snowfall.

These are the Pansies you need for color right now that also takes you through the rest of the season. Cold Grown Pansies employ a Boston Marathon strategy, maintaining a steady pace of blooms rather than a quick sprint at the starting line. They've even been known to flower all the way to the start of summer if planted in the shade.

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 the Pansy yet similar in appearance, the Viola has a couple of special features that makes it different. First of all, the Viola is the first taste of color we get in early spring. It blooms about a week or two earlier than the Pansy. Second, the vigorous Viola has a much higher bloom count. Violas spread to form a thick carpet of color so we use them to fill our Treasure Bowl. In the smaller four-inch size they're great for dabbing color into nooks and crannies in the garden. Plant Violas in fancy teacups or unique little pieces of pottery—they're cute!



Pansy's Many Faces

Bearded Pansies

These pansies have the iconic faces with beards and eyebrows that we remember from our childhood. It is not the pansy's normal look in the wild, but a sport discovered in England back in 1833, called 'Medora' and introduced by James, Lord Gambier. As a rule, heavy beards are more frequently found in the larger pansies, but they can also appear inside the tiny faces of violas as well.



Kitten Whiskers

Some Pansy and Viola faces are painted with thin brush strokes that look like kitten whiskers. This version of the beard is more common on violas than pansies. Whisker patterns will 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

With no face at all the solid color Pansy is the landscaper's favorite. Planted en masse it creates a bright beacon of color that can be seen from a great distance, even by someone driving by at 55MPH. If you want to paint the landscape with color, go with a bed of solid clear-faced pansies. The 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.

