

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Violas

Violas are a very popular option for gardeners because they are easy to grow from seed and easy to care for. They come in many different colors. Viola is the genus name, which includes more than 500 species. Many of these are annuals or short-lived perennials, but they do self-seed. Violas are cool-season flowers. The pansy is within the Viola genus.

### To plant:

Violas are easy to grow from seed and should be started indoors four to six weeks before transplanting the seedlings to the garden. Since Violas can handle a little bit of cold, gardeners can transplant them outside about four weeks before the last frost date. If a gardener lives in a warmer climate and is growing Violas in the fall, begin them indoors in the mid-summer. To plant them indoors, use a sterile potting mix and wet the mix until it is moist throughout. Sprinkle two to three seeds in each small pot, and cover lightly with soil. Set the pots on top of the refrigerator after planting the seeds, and they should germinate within 14 days. As soon as the seeds sprout, move them to a sunny windowsill.

### To grow:

Once the seedlings have their first true set of leaves, thin them to the strongest seedling per pot. Once weather reaches the desired temperature outdoors, harden off the Violas before transplanting them completely outside. Put the pots outside for four hours the first day and increase this amount of time each day. Transplant the Violas outside into the garden about 10 days after hardening



[Johnny Jump Up Viola seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

them off. Violas prefer well-drained soil with lots of organic matter. Violas do like full sun, but they don't do so well in heat. Plant them in an area that may have some afternoon shade. Add mulch around the base of the plant to retain moisture and deter weeds. Deadhead the spent blooms and fix leggy plants by cutting them to 4 inches. Since Violas are smaller blooms that grow compactly and bloom for a long period of time, they make a good option to grow in a hanging basket, in window boxes or as edging along the garden.

### To harvest:

Although Violas don't make for the best cut flowers since they grow compactly, the blooms are edible and can be garnishes to dishes such as a salad. They also can be garnishes on cakes and used to decorate jams. Harvest the flowers in the coolest part of the day and pick the flowers when they reach their blooming peak.



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## What Violas crave:

Violas like to grow in rich, organic matter, so begin fertilizing them while they are still seedlings inside with a well-balanced, water-soluble fertilizer. Upon transplanting outdoors, add a granular fertilizer to the top few inches of soil around the Violas. Apply a second feeding of the granular fertilizer a week later, and continue to feed the violas with some general-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer every four weeks during the growing season.

## Where to buy Viola seeds:

Urban Farmer's Viola seeds produce dainty little flowers that have a sweet fragrance.

Check out our Viola seed selection on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



[Blackjack Viola seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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