

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing pansies

Pansies are a very popular flower amongst beginning gardeners because they are easy to grow. They require minimal care, and they also have a long flowering season, so it's a win-win for novice gardeners. Pansies come in a wide variety of colors and mixes.

To plant:

Pansies are easy to grow from seed but keep in mind they take a long time to mature, so many gardeners will start the seeds inside up to 12 weeks before the last frost date. Because they are cold hardy, you can set the seedlings out almost a month before the last frost date in the area. To plant the seeds, press them in the soil about the same depth as the seeds are thick and cover them. Darkness is required for the seeds to germinate. Although they are cold hardy, be sure to harden them off a week or so before planting them in the garden.

To grow:

Although pansies already have a long-blooming season, if the gardener deadheads them, they will bloom even longer. Cut the plants back during the season's hottest month and mulch around the plants to retain moisture.

One positive to pansies is they typically aren't affected by pests or diseases, but slugs can cause issues. This problem can be handled by setting out slug traps or applying diatomaceous around the bed.

Pansies perform their best in cooler weather, and that's why they are planted usually in the spring or fall. Pansies do best



[Pansy seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

when planted in rich, well-drained soil high in organic matter. They can grow in full sun or in partial shade. If growing in a hotter USDA Hardiness Zone, plant the flowers in partial shade so the hot afternoon sun doesn't deter flower production.

To harvest:

Although pansies are beautiful and brightly colored in the garden, they don't perform well as cut flowers.

What pansies craves:

At planting time, amend the soil with a granular, general-purpose fertilizer. Use 1 teaspoon of fertilizer per every square foot of planting area. Apply a second application of granular fertilizer a week after you plant the pansies, and repeat this process in the fall or spring. If using the granular fertilizer, scatter it over the soil and rake it even.



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During the pansy's growing season, feed the flowers once every three or so weeks. For this, use a dry fertilizer or use a general-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer.

Where to buy pansy seeds:

You can find pansy seeds that bloom huge blooms on our website at ufseeds.com!



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