

## Q & A for Icicle Pansies & Violas

### *Care & Planting*

When should I plant them?

Now! The earlier you plant them in the fall, the more established they get for the winter and the more success you're likely to have.

Where should I plant them?

In beds (in the ground) in locations with 6 to 12 hours of sun per day. That is considered part sun to full sun. They will do okay in the shade, but in sunnier spots, they will likely bloom later and earlier in the seasons. Avoid highly wind exposed areas, and don't plant where they can freeze in standing water (garden should be well drained). Also, don't plant where they will be exposed to road salt.

How deep should they be planted?

Dig a whole just larger/deeper than the pot. Plant deep enough to cover the soil from the pot and press firmly into the ground.

How far apart should they be planted from one another?

Plant them 6 to 8 inches apart. But if you like them really full, you can plant them closer together.

Do the plants need to be deadheaded?

NO. You can deadhead if you like to do it, but the blooms last a long time and are very full so you likely won't think they need it.

Do they need to be cut back once they die in the late fall?

NO! You should leave them as-is. They don't actually die in the fall they are only dormant, so you should not cut them back or you could actually kill them.

If I plant them in containers but bring them indoors for the winter, will they survive?

Well they might survive but you probably wouldn't like them. Pansies like cool weather and they will be stringy/leggy and sparse in blooms if you take them inside. They will be more beautiful in the spring if you leave them in the ground.

How much water do they need?

Don't keep them wet, but let them get too dry either. You should remember to water them in the fall and early spring though and you might not be used to having plants to water then. When they feel somewhat dry, you should water them.

Do they need any special soil or fertilization?

Normal pH or basic soil that is fertile is good. You should water and fertilize with an all-purpose fertilizer when you plant them, and again in the spring. If you want to fertilize in the growing season more often, you may see more blooms.

Do I need to do anything special to get them ready for the winter?

You can just leave them as-is. No mulch, no covers, just let nature take its course. Snow can actually be a nice protector for them.

Do I need to do anything special to make sure they bloom again in the spring?

You can fertilize once they are perked up and green, and water as needed. But otherwise, no.

### ***Lifecycle***

Will they bloom before or after my spring bulbs?

They should bloom before your tulips, but weather predicting is unreliable. You may get lucky and seem blooms before your crocuses, but it depends on where they are planted (a nice cozy protected spot on the sunny side of your house might mean earlier blooms).

What spring bulbs would make a good complement?

Yellow bulbs like daffodils and tulips would look nice with Clear Orange pansies or Orange violas, or you can be more dramatic and contrast the yellow with purple and violet hues such as Indigo Viola, Clear Blue Pansy, or Blue Viola.

Will they last past the first frost?

Most likely yes. We often get many small frosts through September and October and they may continue to bloom well into November or even early December.

Are the violas just as hardy as the pansies?

Yes they are equally hardy to Icicle Pansies.

### ***Guarantee***

What do you mean the flowers are guaranteed?

If you plant the flowers as directed on the care tag and they don't bloom again in the spring, you can send in your tag, receipt and address information to Fernlea and get up to \$15 back — no questions. Guarantees are accepted after May 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a \$15 per household limit.

### ***Coupon***

Can I use my coupon tomorrow?

The coupon expires Oct 31, but the plants may sell out very quickly and the earlier you plant them, the more full they will be next spring.

If I buy more than one flat, do I get a dollar off of each flat?

Yes.

### *About Fernlea Flowers*

Where is Fernlea Flowers located?

Their headquarters and growing location for Icicle pansies is in Delhi Ontario, Canada. That is about 150 miles west of Toronto. They also have several greenhouses in Florida.

Where are Fernlea Flowers grown?

Flowers are grown where they yield the best results. For example, poinsettias are grown mostly in Florida indoors. But Icicle Pansies do better growing part of their life outside in Canada.

What other Fernlea Flowers are available?

Fernlea grows many annuals, hanging baskets, poinsettias, vegetable plants and accent plants. They are one of North America s largest growers.

Does Fernlea Flowers have a website?

[www.fernlea.com](http://www.fernlea.com)