



**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker

Pansies

The bright funny-faced pansies are a welcome sight in the early spring garden. Pansies survive spring frosts and grow and bloom best in cool weather.

The word "pansy" comes from the French word "pansee" meaning Happy Thoughts. Pansies have been popular for centuries. Today there are many beautiful hybrids which not only bloom in the cool of spring but also throughout summer's heat.

Cultivars

Pansy cultivars in the 1997 Penn State Trial Gardens included splendid white, splendid yellow, splendid Blue and Yellow, Purple Rain, Imperial Frosty Rose and Jewel Mix.

Splendid yellow and splendid white received the highest in overall ratings last year. Many performed well early in the season but fared poorly throughout July and August. Hundreds of pansy varieties are available this spring.

Uses

Pansies are a natural in among the spring flowering bulbs. They also add color to the developing perennial bed. But to get the most from your plants try them planted in tubs or hanging baskets. They seem especially suited to those half-baskets on a wall or fence. Best of all you can move them around to get the most enjoyment from their cheerful colors.

Planting

Pansies like a location with sun as long as there is midday shade for warm days later in the season.

Like most plants they do best in well prepared soil to which organic material such as shredded leaves, compost or rotted manure has been added.

Be sure to harden off for a few days if they have been grown in a greenhouse.

Position about 6 to 9 inches apart. Be sure to plant at the depth they have been growing. Pansies grow from a crown which must be right at the soil surface.

Care

Remove the spent flowers before they form seeds so the plant can use its energy to form more blooms instead of seeds. If the plant starts to become leggy pinch them back.

Keep soil moist by watering deeply when necessary. Never let the plants dry out!

Feed with a water soluble fertilizer if the leaves become pale or yellow and flower production declines. Container grown plants need to be fed with a dilute solution of fertilizer at each watering. (about 1/4 strength of label directions)

Mulch the soil around the plants to help keep the soil cool and damp. A thin layer of grass clippings is great for this.

With good care your plants will survive through the heat of summer and be ready to put on

a second show in the fall. Or invest in a few new plants in the fall for lots of bright blooms until heavy frost.

Any questions concerning this article can be directed to Tom Becker at (717) 840-7408.

**4-H Sewing Club
Presents Quilts**

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) - The Kimberton 4-H Sewing Club completed six handmade lap quilts as a club service project.

Leader Janet Ferguson enlisted the help of Liz Carrabine, an experienced quilter, to teach and help the 4-H'ers make the quilts. They are colorful patchwork, hand-tied quilts measuring approximately 43"x48" - ideal for the lap. Much of the fabric had been donated to the club, and the batting and other supplies were purchased with club funds.

The quilts were donated to Heritage Acres, an assisted/independent living nursing home in Phoenixville. Recently the 4-H club members personally delivered the quilts and stayed for a visit. The quilters were Sara Brobst, Alexis Ferguson, Baron Ferguson, Stephanie Giebler, Christopher Grover, and Julia Grover.

More than 30 years ago, the Kimberton 4-H Sewing Club began teaching young people to sew at the Grange Building in Kimberton. For about seven years, the club has been meeting at the Kimberton Fire House. The children and their parents met for 14 weeks in the early spring to sew individual projects. They culminate in June with a county-wide 4-H Fashion Revue. Winners of Fashion Revue go on to compete in regional and state competitions.

Kimberton Sewing Club encourages new members. If you are 8-18 years old and want to learn to sew or to enhance your sewing skills, contact Toni Stuetz at the Chester County 4-H office. 4-H is open to all children aged 8-18 and has opportunities to gather and learn many different skills from sewing to sheep shearing to photography and more. For information, contact the Chester County 4-H at (610) 696-3500.

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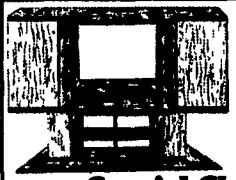
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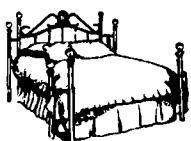


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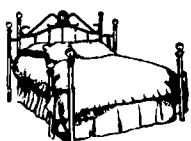


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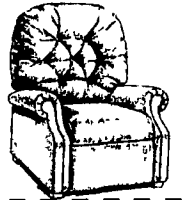
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