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PANSY PARTNERS

Panola
Viola — Reseeds
Ornamental Cabbage & Kale
Mustard — Giant Red/Swiss Chard
Alyssum — Until first frost — Reseeds
Snapdragon — Until first frost — Reseeds
Chrysanthemum
Stock — Until first frost
English Daisy — Sun or part-shade
Rosemary — Evergreen — Low water
Ornamental Peppers
Dianthus — Perennial — Fall & Spring bloom
Dusty Miller
Marigold
Petunia
Anemones

BEST CHOICES FOR FALL & WINTER COLOR FOR SHADY AREAS

Cyclamen
Primrose
English Daisy — Sun or part-shade
Algerian Ivy — Evergreen
Needlepoint Ivy — Evergreen
Stock — Until first frost

Pansies, *Viola X Wittrockiana* - Come in a variety of sizes, colors and types. There are solid colors without faces, to bi-colors with contrasting faces, to blended colors, giving you a mix of colors in each bloom.

Pansies thrive in cool weather and will bloom from now until hot weather causes them to decline. They will grow in full sun to partial shade. Plant the individual plants four to six inches apart in a well-drained location with moderately rich soil. Pansies can be planted in a mix of colors, or for a really dazzling display, in a single color. Mass them together where ever possible. They make a great companion planting for spring flowering bulbs.

Always water your flowerbeds thoroughly, to protect before a cold spell. Hard frosts will not damage pansy plants but may mar existing blooms. Wash any frost off plants and once the soil thaws out, they will bounce back and resume flowering.

Pansies are heavy feeders. To encourage continuous blooms throughout the fall and winter, provide a high nitrogen fertilizer such as 12-6-6 or blood meal at planting. The blood meal can be added beneath each plant. 12-6-6 or any fertilizer with a high first number can be applied in water-soluble form throughout the flowering season.

Viola - These are pansy relatives with dainty flowers borne in profusion. The flowers look like miniature pansies and come in an array of colors. Violas reseed heavily during the blooming period and are a great choice for containers.

Panola - Panolas are a cross between pansies and violas with excellent cold hardiness and bloom vigor.

Ornamental Cabbage and Kale - These plants are very showy, and come in a variety of colors, ranging from white to pinks, purples or reds. The ornamental cabbages and kales look much the same as their edible cousins, but the ruffled foliage is much fancier and more colorful. They do not tolerate summer heat, but are extremely cold tolerant. The brilliant coloration of these plants will intensify as temperatures drop. Plant behind pansies in your fall and winter landscape or as a central interest in your flowering containers.

Cyclamen - Cyclamen bloom in late fall to spring in many colors: crimson, red, rose, pink, salmon, purple and white. The flowers are usually large, uniform, 3 to 4 inches, borne on 6 to 8 inch stems above kidney-shaped, dark green leaves. Some varieties have silvery marbling on their leaves. Dwarf or mini cyclamen are popular because their 1/2 to 3/4 size makes them perfect for container gardens or for the window sill.

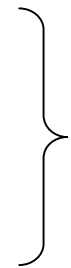
Cyclamen prefer rich, well-drained soil. Plant outdoors in southern areas as a fall and winter bedding plant. They are a good choice to replace caladiums or impatiens in shady, spots and they'll take winter sun once daytime temperatures stay consistently under 70 degrees. Cyclamen are hardy to 20 degrees F. Plants will lose their leaves and go dormant in hot weather. Water at soil level.

Soil preparation

In North Texas, our heavy, sticky clay soil needs to be amended before you plant a new bed. Plant roots don't get enough oxygen in clay soils. Raised beds, compost and other amendments help. Back to Earth composted cotton burrs and expanded shale are two of the best soil amendments, which can be added to our Texas gumbo to ensure success in your perennial and annual beds. Expanded shale, a gravel-size rock that is pumped full of air, aerates clay soil, makes it easy to work and helps it drain better. You only need to add it to the soil once and work it into the beds at root level.

Steps for applying expanded shale:

- Till in 3 inches of expanded shale, 6-8 inches deep
- Till in 3 inches of composted cotton burrs
- Mix expanded shale, compost & existing soil thoroughly



OR
Use **Covington's Soil Builder** with Expanded Shale, Compost & Texas Green Sand already pre-mixed

Watering and Mulch

Before planting, we recommend carefully assessing and preparing the soil so that it has proper drainage (use expanded shale to correct poor drainage). North Texas soils tend to retain water, which is good for dry summers, but can literally drown plants in the spring rains. Because native perennials are naturally xeriscopic, too much water will kill them more quickly than too little.

By properly preparing the planting area, the roots of your new plants will adjust and begin to grow more rapidly and deeper. This, along with mulching (3" layer is optimum) helps to reduce the need for frequent watering. It is important to always *'deep water'* your plants rather than a light sprinkling, especially during the hot summer months. Most annuals and perennials, with the exception of drought resistant plants, need at least an inch of water each week to thrive. Encourage deeper root growth by soaking the soil, and then letting it become dry an inch or two down before you water again. Use mulches to reduce the rate at which water evaporates from the soil's surface. Mulches also reduce weed growth, further reducing water consumption.