



## Spring-Sown Pansies For Summer Blooms

While most gardeners plant seeds of pansies in August, winter seedlings under protection and expect flowers in early spring, pansies also may be started from seeds sown in the earliest spring, indoors of course, and will then flower in summer.

Pansy seeds are so tiny that there are 25,000 of them in a single ounce. They need shade and a cool temperature to sprout so choose a cool room and a northern exposure for them in your home.

Use finely sieved soil, milled sphagnum moss or some other fine-textured growing mixture in which to sow seeds. Barely cover them

with fine soil or milled sphagnum. Keep seeds moist with a fine spray of water and in 10 days they should sprout.

AS SOON AS seedlings are hand-digable move any that are crowded to allow them room to develop. Transplant them outdoors from a flat or from individual pots as soon as plants are large enough and soil is workable.

If you want a mass of bloom, space plants six inches apart.

It takes 12 to 16 weeks for pansy plants to reach flowering size. Thus plants grown in spring start to bloom

about the time that fall-sown pansies finish blossoming. While seed, of any type or variety of pansy may be spring-sown, the best for summer bloom are first generation hybrids, notably the Majestic Giants strain. These are available in mixed or separate colors.

Their advantages are earlier bloom (a full two weeks ahead of most other hybrids), heat tolerance so that they continue to flower when warm weather arrives, and hybrid vigor that keeps plants growing and flower buds forming despite heat.



**OLD-TIME CEDAR** — The 4x8-foot panels from Masonite feature a weathered look. Two horizontal strips, bounded at one edge by a vertical plant, plus textured nail replicas add to the "pioneer" look.



**AMERICAN STENCIL COLLECTION** — Stencils, an old folk art once used on walls, floors, and trims of American colonial houses, have been revised in a fresh new way for this collection. Historic motifs from the late 18th and early 19th centuries have been carefully researched then adapted. The rugs are woven in a heavy textured loop to complement the colonial furnishings, and colors have been heightened to add new dimensions to these authentic patterns.

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# PINE

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## February Ideal For Grape Pruning

**EAST LANSING** — The secret to growing high yields of top quality grapes each and every year is pruning, say horticulturists at Michigan State University.

According to the experts the yield of next year's crop will depend on the vigor of the vine growth this year. In general, the more cane growth that a vine produces this year, the larger the potential yield of fruit next year.

However, the larger the fruit crop next year, the smaller the amount of growth the following year. A cycle is

produced in which a heavy crop one year is followed by a smaller crop the next.

To break this cycle and obtain the maximum yield from your grape vine each and every year, pruning is recommended in February. Follow these steps:

If the vine growth was weak the first year, cut it back to two buds. Strong shoots will develop from these buds, one will later become the trunk.

Cut off dead, broken or diseased canes the following year and select the largest cane to become the trunk. Tie this cane to one of the trellis wires and other long vigorous canes to the top wire. The weaker canes should be cut off above the lower wire and tied there.

Good vines will have several canes in the spring of the third growing season. Choose four of these at proper levels and train one each way from the trunk on both wires. Then cut each of these canes back between the fifth and sixth buds. If you prefer the umbrella style, choose only two canes and cut them back to 10 or 12 buds each.

For more information on pruning grapes, see your local county extension agent or write to MSU Bulletin Office, Box 231, East Lansing, Mich. 48823. Ask for extension bulletin 347, "Pruning Grapes."

## How To Grow Citrus Plants

Do you want an interesting and different ornamental indoor plant this winter? Dr. Harold Davidson, Michigan State University horticulturist, recommends a citrus plant.

Select an orange, lemon, lime, tangerine or grapefruit plant. The Otaheite and Calamondin oranges, and Ponderosa and Meyer lemons are dwarf types that flower and bear fruit while very small.

Light is essential to promote flowering, Davidson said. To bear fruit the flowers of a citrus plant must be cross-pollinated. Use a small brush to transfer the pollen from one flower to the stigma of another.

Plants grow and develop fruits best at temperatures ranging from 50-70 degrees. Keep the soil moist. Use a potting mixture of equal parts of sand, garden loam and peat moss for good drainage.

To prevent yellowing of the foliage use an acid growing medium (available at lawn and garden stores). Fertilize with a solution recommended for azaleas (also available at stores) during periods of active growth. Plants that lack vigor will not bear fruit.

## Dad, Mom, Need Hideaway

In this fast-moving age, a couple with children needs a bedroom "retreat" that gives them privacy to read, listen to stereo, watch TV, or write. You might even consider "His 'n' hers" areas.

To establish the masculine and feminine themes, Robert Huff, home improvement director for Marlette paneling, suggests walls, such as a tapestry pattern for Mom and leather-textured walls in Dad's area.

## Glare Filtered

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