

Proctor: Try a new type of pansy

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KUSA - Pansies are the most popular spring flowers. They grow great in beds or pots and come in a multitude of colors.

They shrug off cold nights and bloom well into summer. What they don't do is cascade - until now.

'Cool Wave' is a new type of pansy that has been developed to cascade over the edge of a pot and down the side. There are few spring annuals that do this. That makes 'Cool Wave' valuable for container combinations and hanging baskets.

The flowers of 'Cool Wave' are powder blue and white. The trailing plant is a heavy bloomer. It needs little care except to be kept moist and fed with a bloom booster fertilizer. Pick off dead blooms to help keep the plant blooming vigorously.

A windy day can dry out a hanging basket very quickly, so be vigilant. If you are handy at these sorts of things, consider putting your hanging baskets on a drip system. It's the only reliable way to keep your baskets watered thoroughly.

The main mistake that many people make with hanging baskets is hanging them too high. They end up staring at the bottom of the baskets rather than at what they contain. Use chain or wire to lower the basket where you can enjoy it at eye level when you are seated on your deck or patio. If you don't have a place to hang a flowering basket, use a metal stake with a hook. These are widely available at garden centers.