

Try These Violas

The cheerful blooms of these prolific annuals will brighten your containers and borders and last from fall through spring

As senior director of gardens at the Dallas Arboretum, Jimmy Turner has tested thousands of selections of violas and pansies, but violas remain his hands-down favorite. Why? Because violas are the best performers.

“Violas bloom longer than pansies and are more prolific,” he says. “Newer selections are more tolerant of cold weather, and they are all resistant to bugs and mildew.”

These easy-to-grow, colorful plants bloom in

white, yellows, oranges, pinks, reds, purples—even black.

“Gardeners often think viola flowers won’t show up from a distance because they’re so small, but one plant may have hundreds of flowers at a time, while larger-flowered pansies have only two or three blossoms,” Jimmy explains. “The total amount of color is what we’re looking for. I actually use violas in the arboretum’s winter and spring designs because they are so floriferous that, from a distance, you can’t even see the foliage. They just become solid borders of color.” ⇨



Give violas a lift by planting them in a strawberry jar; create a striking combination with ‘Sorbet Plum Velvet’ and ‘Sorbet Icy Blue’ violas.

CREATE THIS CONTAINER!

Use a lightweight, premixed potting soil that includes a slow-release fertilizer. Add damp soil up to the first level of holes in the side of the jar. Insert violas from six-packs. Add soil up to the next level of holes, and plant. Repeat until you’ve planted the whole jar. Water gently.

