

PANSY

My new saying is “think and get out of the pot”, this is why I love landscaping so much, and we can change with the season and change if we do not like it. I love things to be different each season. Do not get stuck on the same old same old.

This year I am going back to using lots of the fall, winter and spring pansy. I have chosen the Delta series for most of the ones we will use. WOW!! At the colors, from shades of blue, lavenders, pink and reds to the solids. I will also use the Colossus series for mine larger blooms.

There are things you need to know about these little pearls in the garden that will help you to have a good stand of flowers. They like you to raise the soil just a bit so they are not flat of the ground, this provide good drainage for them. They love to be fed at least once a week to every two week. I do not do well without food and they are no different. They can survive light freezes and that early morning frost that we might have. They do not like too much water so be very careful about that. If we stay to hot that is why they become leggy and stop blooming. With our weather it is hard to tell what will happen. If they lose color and the foliage shrivels it could be from stem rot, CAPTAN is great to mix in the soil when you plant to help prevent this. Rust can be another problem, which are yellow-brown spots on the leaves and stems. Keep some fungicide on hand just in case.

Slugs, snails and aphids might come calling so I would keep my eyes open and take care of them fast. Do not add much mulch around them that will keep the soil to moist and the insect love that. People are always blaming their bugs on the mulch; it is the moisture from the mulch not the mulch itself.

Please do not buy old, leggy, odd coloring plants, start out with GOOD stock and you will have better luck. I never but something that has been reduced, that tells you there is a problem.

I like to plant some bulbs under the pansy so in spring so I have a nice surprise that will pop up and make me laugh.

Sonnet snapdragons, parsley, kale, dianthus and mustard are great to plant as a taller plant in the back of the bed or in the middle to give some height and added color.

For a sweet looking salad topping add some pansies, so cool looking. I do love eating flowers, just makes me feel special.

One last surprise, if you get up early, be very quiet and go outside you might catch the pansy fairies painting on the flowers.

“Get out of the pot”

Happy Fall
Nancy Walker
nwalker@dothan.org