

## USDA Applauds Missouri Court Ruling on Meat Processing Plants

U.S. Secretary Perdue today applauded the decision made by the District Court of Western Missouri which ruled that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has the primary jurisdiction over worker's safety in meat processing plants across the country during the COVID-19 national emergency.

"This ruling affirms that OSHA is the primary entity that has authority over worker's safety," Secretary Perdue said. "Since President Trump issued his Executive

Order last week to keep these critical facilities operating, USDA has been working hand in hand with OSHA and the CDC to ensure meat processing facilities are abiding by Federal guidelines. This ruling is directly in line with what the Federal government has been calling for companies and communities to do in light of the President's Executive Order. If we continue to work together, we can maintain the critical supply of meat and poultry for Americans while also protecting worker health and safety."

### Background:

On April 28, 2020 President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to keep meat and poultry processing facilities open during the COVID-19 national emergency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor have put out guidance for plants to implement to help ensure employee safety to reopen plants or to continue to operate those

still open. Under the Executive Order and the authority of the Defense Production Act, USDA will work with meat processing to affirm they will operate in accordance with the CDC and OSHA guidance, and then work with state and local officials to ensure that these plants are allowed to operate to produce the meat protein that Americans need. USDA will continue to work with the CDC, OSHA, FDA, and state and local officials to ensure that facilities implementing this guidance to keep employees safe can continue operating.

## Pansy: a flower for all seasons Pansies put on a happy face for Missouri's spring and fall.

**COLUMBIA, MO.** – If there's a plant that deserves the title of "flower for all seasons," it is the pansy, says University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

At any given time in North America, you will find pansies blooming prolifically somewhere.

This cool-loving garden flower flourishes in winter in far southern states and in summer in northern regions. Midwesterners enjoy pansy's unique palette of colors and delicate fragrance in spring and fall.

Late March and early September are ideal months to plant them in Missouri for color that extends for many weeks.

Many confuse pansy with its more petite relative, the viola. Both have flowers with five petals. However, pansy has four petals pointing up and one pointing down. In contrast, three of viola's petals point up and two point down. Its flowers also are usually smaller than those of the pansy.

Pansies and violas share a common ancestry. Greeks grew violas mostly for medicinal purposes as early as the fourth century B.C. A watchful gardener noticed that a particular viola flourished in sunny, alpine meadows. This strain of viola received the common name of wild pansy.

In the early 1800s, English nobleman Lord Gambier and his gardener, William Thompson, crossed species of the



**Cool Wave yellow trailing pansy. Courtesy Ball Horticultural Company.**

genus *Viola*. These crosses resulted in plants that produced larger flowers of unusual colors and color combinations.

History credits Thompson with the cross that resulted in the now-familiar *Viola x wittrockiana*. Its flowers burst with huge

blocks of color or faces on the lower petals.

By the mid-1800s, Europeans had bred pansies and developed hybrids with greater plant vigor. The flowers of these hybrids had no dark blocks or lines. Thus, "clear" pansies got their start.

Popularity of the pansy skyrocketed in North America. A 19th-century seed catalog described pansy as "the most popular of all flowers grown from seed," with sales exceeding 100,000 packets a year.

Over the past several decades, breeders have produced pansies with new colors, including shades of pink, rose or orange, and flowers with unusual bicolor designs. Given pansy's enduring popularity, the improvement of this charming little plant is far from over, Trinklein said.

Most gardeners choose to plant pansies sold in bedding plant packs. Choose pest-free stocky plants with healthy leaves and unopened buds, he said.

Pansies enjoy cool weather and abundant sunshine. Unfortunately, in the Midwest this combination of conditions happens only in spring and fall.

For best results, Midwestern gardeners should choose an exposure of morning sun followed by afternoon shade, Trinklein said. Although pansy grows as an annual in Missouri, fall-planted pansies often survive winters and bloom in late winter or very early spring when temperatures rise.

Pansies have fine and delicate root systems. Plant them in porous soil enriched with organic matter to promote good soil aeration and proper water retention. Incorporate 3-4 inches of well-decomposed organic matter as a best management practice. Add pre-plant fertilizer as needed.

Space pansies about 6-10 inches apart and add 1-2 inches of water at the base of the plant. Do not allow soil to dry. Add water-soluble fertilizer as according to label directions.

Pansies grow relatively disease- and pest-free. Yellow leaves often indicate root rot, usually caused by overwatering. A white, powdery substance on leaves and stems indicates powdery mildew. Choose a location with good air circulation to prevent this.

Slugs and snails sometimes attack pansies. These nocturnal feeders produce gaping holes in the leaves. Control slugs and snails with poisonous baits.

"The lack of gardening activity during winter can be a bit depressive, especially to avid gardeners," Trinklein said. Because pansies can be planted very early, they bring an end to the winter doldrums. "Therefore, it might be concluded that pansies, with their cheerful, 'smiling' flowers, are as therapeutic for our inner being as they are beautiful to our eyes."

Source: David Trinklein, 573-882-9631

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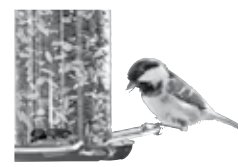
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