

Florets
Twin City Garden Club
September 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday Sept 16 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Canning **Presenter:** Martha Tinsley

Martha is filling in for Susan Tiger and will lead us through the essential steps for healthy home canning.

Horticultural Tip of the Month

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Jill Moore and Bonnie Speccio

Floral arrangement by: Lisa Sur

Plant/Seed Exchange

Penny Pines -----> Plant-a-Tree

For many years Twin City Garden Club has contributed to the Penny Pines. The program has been renamed Plant-A-Tree. The program is a partnership of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service to sustain our national forests. The Plant-A-Tree program continues to be a reforestation and forest education program. All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most—the places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought, and other forest disturbances. Please bring your donations to club meetings. Tori Corkery is now serving as the Chair of the Plant-A-Tree program.

Birthdays: Tori Corkery (9/27)

Business Meeting

Call to Order

President's Opening Remarks

Recording Secretary Minutes/Approval

Treasurer's Report

Corresponding Secretary Report

Standing Committee Reports

Membership

Facebook

Sunshine

Program

Website

Philanthropy

Yearbook

Social

New Business 2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Unfinished Business

Adjourn

IN THE GARDEN with pansies

During these times of garden clean-up especially when annuals such as zinnias or marigolds have been spent, pansies seem to be a good choice for filling in those bare spaces. These brightly colored flowers bring not only cheer but also lure in pollinators, mainly bumblebees as the summer-fall season cools.

Commercially sold varieties with what is termed as “bright, smiling faces” are hybrids of the native wildflower, *Viola tricolor*. Through selective cross-pollination pioneered by plant geneticists such as Luther Burbank there are latest count at least 300 hybrid pansy types, with even more modern techniques exploring even more unique types. Local garden outlets usually stock the more common varieties in annual packs of 6-8 small plantlets starting in late August through October.



Why plant now? Pansies thrive during the cooler seasons of early autumn and throughout spring until the hot, hot days of summer. But what about winter? Now that Champaign County has been adjusted to be zone 6, there may be more success. But over the years when it was a zone 5, there were carry overs from fall-planted pansies, although there were years of failures. Don't have detailed notes of my own on this, but the main problem seemed to be the winters of cold/warming cycles which tend to heave the plants up and out of the ground. During winters of consistent cold and even ones with a good snow depth, it was always a delight to see the flowers emerge in early spring adding another dash of color to the garden. Unfortunately for us who don't live along the cooler areas of the northern and southern coasts, the pansies just will not tolerate heat and thus will wilt away by July or August.

Some advice for planting: dig a few inches deeper than the root length and pack the soil well around the plant. Water consistently, don't overdo it. Pinch back on any leggy flower stems. This may seem counterintuitive since that might be the showiest bloom, but it does encourage new blooms to emerge. One major pest are squirrels, who are busy hiding acorns away in easily accessible places. Use a few thorny twigs near the base of the plant to deter them.



Interested in some of the more uncommon forms, such as the pansies that have been developed to have crinkles or ruffles which don't seem to be available locally? Do an internet image search (pansy varieties pictures) to locate possible online vendors. Seeds for these types may be available which can be started in late winter for early spring planting.