

# GARDEN NEWS

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HEAD GARDENER

## CRAZY ABOUT PANSIES

**‘Y**ou’ve gone a little crazy with pansies this year’ was one visitor’s comment in reaction to our spring display.

This year, for the first time, we have used violets and pansies as an early seasonal under-planting to our bulbs in the High Border, War of the Rose border and pot display. Truth be told, it is simply a bit of fun on my part, having finally overcome my prejudice against the genus *Viola*. For most of my horticultural career, I associated this small spring bedder with cemeteries, run-down council parks and old-fashioned window boxes, including my grandmother’s. Despite

their rather delicate and humorous names, like ‘Lemon Blueberry Swirl’ or ‘Hollywood Honeys’, they are possessed of a seemingly relentless cheerfulness and endurance, even throughout the wettest British winter on record, for which I have grown to admire them.

Above: *Viola* ‘Penny Blue Wing’,  
Below: Sorbet Lemon Chiffon’, Base  
of page left: *Viola* ‘Sorbet Yellow  
Frost’ and Base of page right: *Viola*  
‘Supreme Ultima True Blue’

