

VIOLETS

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

- Low growing plants with heart-shaped leaves and five-petaled flowers.
- Flowers are usually purple, but can also be white.
- Often grow in **CLUMPS**.

ARE PERENNIAL VIOLETS A PROBLEM?

- **YES**
 - Spread with enthusiasm.
 - Not as aggressive as most problem weeds, **BUT** will compete with other plants.
 - Get into lawns.
 - Are difficult to get rid of.
- **NO**
 - Are a useful groundcover plant.
 - Have pretty flowers and a lovely scent.
 - Are a **GOOD** early flower for **POLLINATORS**.
 - **FLOWERS** and **LEAVES** are edible –can be added to salads, and leaves can be cooked like spinach.
 - Can be worn in a wreath around the neck to prevent drunkenness (though **NOT** scientifically proven 😊)



Viola odorata
(Introduced from Europe)

HOW DO THEY GROW?

- Spread by **SEEDS** and also by short horizontal root runners.
- Prefer **SHADY, MOIST** areas, but can spread to other areas.

HOW TO DEAL WITH VIOLETS?

- **WEED** unwanted violets – make sure to get **ALL** the roots!
- **DO NOT** let them start **SPREADING** where you don't want them.
- Large areas of unwanted violets can be covered with **PLASTIC** to kill them.
- Maintain a **HEALTHY** lawn.

Sources:

Parish, R., Coupe, R., and Lloyd, D. *Plants of the Southern Interior British Columbia and the Inland Northwest*, 1996. Cornell University. *Growing Guide, Sweet Violet*. www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenef803.html
Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook Page. *Violets – Friend or Foe?*
www.mgoi.ca/resources/Gardening-FAQs/Violets-Friend-or-Foe.pdf

Image:

Fritz Geller-Grimm, CC – Wiki Commons