

# ARE PERENNIAL VIOLETS A PROBLEM?

- YES o Spread with enthusiasm.
  - Not as aggressive as most problem weeds,
    BUT will compete with other plants.
  - o Get into lawns.
  - Are difficult to get rid of.
- NO o 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 (3))

### **HOW TO DEAL WITH VIOLETS?**

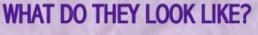
- WEED unwanted violets make sure to get ALL the roots!
- DO NOT let them start SPREADING where you don't want them.
- Large areas of unwanted violets can be covered with PLASTIC to kill them.
- Maintain a HEALTHY lawn.

#### 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:

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



## **HOW DO THEY GROW?**

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