

Geraniums

It wouldn't be summer without the bright displays of Geraniums we see each year. They are one of the best-loved plants in the world and are sold in every corner of the globe. Geraniums are often used as focal points for bedding displays and container plantings. Versatile and durable Geraniums belong in every summer landscape.

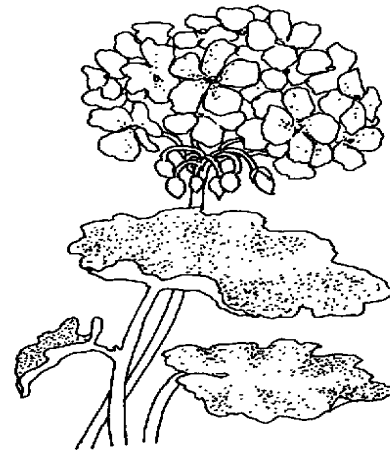
Geraniums (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) come in three general types. All are typically sold as annuals but can be successfully overwintered as tender perennials. See the 'how-to' on the reverse of this sheet. There are also perennials that are true botanical geraniums and are referred to as 'hardy geraniums'. Their appearance and growth habit is completely different from what most people refer to as geraniums and they are not discussed on this sheet.

General Cultural Information: Most geraniums prefer full sun. Keep geraniums moist but not over watered. Regular deadheading (removing spent flowers) encourages growth. Pinch the tips back on non-flowering branches to encourage stem development and keep the plants bushy. Geraniums like to be fertilized during the growing season. They are somewhat sensitive to overfeeding so use either water soluble or slow release growing season fertilizers but not both. Geraniums that have been overwintered and kept inside will need to be hardened off and protected from freezing in spring. Plants that you want to overwinter must be kept from frost or freezing in fall.

Zonal Geraniums: These are the most commonly sold type of Geraniums. These sun-loving plants like good sun all day. Keep them well watered but do not allow the soil to get soggy.

Showy, multiple 4-6" wide flower heads appear from spring to late fall. Plant Land grows all our own geraniums from cuttings and offers a wide selection. Flower colors go from classic red in several distinct shades to a range of pinks and pure white. Varieties with decorative leaf colors and patterns have also been introduced recently.

Martha Washington Geraniums: These are also known as 'Regals'. The color range includes



intense burgundy shades and several unique pinks. The flowers are ruffled and grow in small clusters. They bloom for most of the summer. They prefer morning sun and can't take the hot afternoon sun. They have a strong upright and

bushy habit.

Ivy Geraniums: This plant has a different appearance from other geraniums. It grows like a vine and is an excellent trailing plant for baskets or window boxes. It prefers a semi-sunny location; a spot shaded in the hot afternoons is best. The colors available are shades of white, red, pink, burgundy and lilac purple. Pinching the tips of the stems will encourage bushier plants.

The Plant Land staff can answer any further questions you may have.

