

Annual Geraniums

(*Pelargonium*)



Geraniums, annual flowering plants of the genus *Pelargonium*, have been a traditional favorite of gardeners throughout the world for centuries. In the past few years, there has been an increased interest in the many specialty geraniums that are now available at garden centers. *Pelargoniums* fall into 5 basic categories: ivy, zonal, seed, regal, scented and fancy leaf.

Ivy Geraniums: These have trailing type of growth and are most often used for hanging baskets and for cascading out of containers and window boxes. The flowers can be single or double and come in a range of color that include white, pink, lavender and magenta.



Zonal Geraniums: These are the hybrid varieties that most of us are familiar with. They are grown from cuttings, have large flower heads, and can vary widely in their foliage and flower color. Zonal geraniums are most often planted in containers

Seed Geraniums: These plants are grown by seed and usually produce smaller flowers than other geraniums in colors that include: white, pink, red, salmon and violet. Seed geraniums are often used in the garden for mass planting or in containers.

Regal Geranium: These are the showiest of all the geraniums, also known as “Martha Washington Geraniums”, they have 6 inch clusters of azalea-like blooms in a vast array of colors. Regal geraniums are not fond of hot, humid conditions and are usually planted in containers that can be relocated as necessary.



Scented Geraniums: Scented geranium blooms are not particularly showy and they are usually grown more for their unusual aroma and foliage than for their flowers. These plants are often found in herb gardens and are used in making potpourris, sachets, teas, cakes, jellies and jams. Some leaves also contain citronella oil which deters certain insects.

Cultural Requirements

Annual geraniums are easy to care for plants, that should not be placed outdoors until after all danger of frost has passed. These sun lovers should be planted in a good quality, well drained, potting mix or soil. Keep plants moderately moist, however, plants are able to withstand short periods of drought. Fertilize during the growing season with a blossom booster every two weeks. Removing spent blossoms will help increase flower production.