

The Gardener's Resource
Since 1943



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Pelargonium x domesticum

Regal/Martha Washington Geraniums

Regal geraniums are often called Martha Washington's, the name of a once-famous cultivar. The plants aren't at all difficult to keep alive, but it can be challenging to get them to re-bloom well. The key is to follow a special seasonal rhythm of care. In early summer after flowering stops, cut plants back to about 4", repot them and allow them to rest inside for a month. Give them enough water to keep them alive, but wait until midsummer to begin feeding them. When nights cool to below 55°F in fall, place plants outdoors for at least 6 weeks. Plants use this cool period to develop buds, which may not show until midwinter. Look for large flower clusters in February or March.

Light: In winter and early spring, bright light from a south or west window. In fall, filtered sun outdoors.

Water: Keep soil lightly moist at all times, allowing soil to dry to with ½" of the surface between waterings.



Fertilizing: From late summer through winter and spring, feed plants every 2 weeks with a high-phosphorous plant food. Don't feed in early summer when plants rest.

Tip: In winter and early spring, average room temperatures (60-75°F). In summer, plants rest. In fall, provide 6 to 8 weeks of cool temperatures (45-60°F).