

## Geranium

Genus: Pelargonium

Species: Pelargonium x hortum (zonal pelargonium)

Flowering Period: V to Frost

Pelargonium x hortum is the common garden geranium. Grow them in full sun/part shade and remove dead blooms and leaves during their flowering period. They bear single or double blooms and come in many varieties. The plant is a perennial and can be overwintered in colder climates. Most geraniums will tolerate light frost but a hard freeze is deadly to most. The plants have to be moved indoors for overwintering. They need some light during the winter month, so a cellar, entryway, staircase etc. is ideal. Water the plants very sparingly in winter. Do not fertilize. Keep the plants at a temperature above freezing. In fall cut the long shoots back and in spring give the shoot a cut again. You can cut the shoots as short as 4 inches above the ground in spring. Geraniums develop blooms on new growth of each year. You can take stem cuttings in June (stem a little brown/woody) and plant them tight in a pot for overwintering.



