

Geranium

Sowing Indoors (to get a head start):

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Sow indoors in trays of seed starter soil, which should be thoroughly soaked and allowed to drain, before sowing 0.5cm deep.
- Sow seeds in early Spring to get a head start.
- Cover lightly with seed starter soil and keep at a temperature of 21-25°C until seedlings have germinated.
- Seedlings should emerge in 7 - 14 days.
- Keep moist but not saturated.
- When large enough, transplant in to individual pots and grow on at 13-15°C.
- Gradually accustom young plants to outside conditions towards the end of winter (avoid frosts), before planting out to flowering position, 25 to 30cm apart.

Sowing Outdoors:

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.

Transplanting in the Garden:

- For best results use sterile, disease free and weed free soil to start your seedlings.
- Find a good sunny spot to plant out in late spring.
- It is best to transplant in the early evening or cooler times of day – hot temperatures are likely to upset the seedling.
- When removing your seedling from the start container or ground, be careful not to damage the roots.
- Dig a hole that is the same depth as your seedling and approximately twice as wide.
- Space seedlings approximately 25 to 30 cm apart.
- Place your seedling into the hole, bring the soil closer and be sure not to plant the seedlings deeper than the root ball – the top of the root ball should be at the same level as your hole.
- Always give your seedlings a slight water after transplanting to remove air bubbles and settle your seedlings into their forever home.

Growing Tips

- Remove dead heads to prolong the flowering season.
- Give your geranium plants adequate space to ensure good air circulation and healthy growth. This will help with rooting and prevent disease on the seedlings.
- There should be enough space between each plant so that the leaves are not touching.
- Keep weeds under control during the growing season.
- Weeds compete with plants for water, space and nutrients, so control them by either cultivating often or use a mulch to prevent their seeds from germinating.
- Mulches also help retain soil moisture and maintain even soil temperatures.
- This is especially important for tomatoes as their roots may be easily damaged when weeding, and this can lead to blossom end rot.
- Keep plants well-watered during the growing season, especially during dry spells.
- It's best to water with a drip or trickle system that delivers water at low pressure at the soil level.

- If you water with overhead sprinklers, water early in the day so the foliage has time to dry off before evening, to minimise disease problems.
- Monitor for pests and diseases.
- Check with your local Garden Centre for pest controls recommended for your area.