

# Growing GUIDE

EASY  GROW

## GERANIUM



### PLANTING DEPTH

Crown at soil line



### WATER QUANTITY

Moderate



### SUN QUANTITY

Partial Sun



### PLANTING PROXIMITY

12" Apart



### BLOOM SEASON

Summer



### HARDINESS ZONES

Zones 5-8

## GERANIUM PLANTING GUIDE

Hardy Geraniums, also known as Cranesbills due to the shape of their seed pods, are fantastic filler plants that don't receive nearly enough credit. These carefree perennials are super easy to grow and flourish in a wide range of conditions. Plus, they arrive in various stunning shades, with many reblooming through summer and fall. So, are you looking to add some spectacular color to your landscape? Learn how to plant, grow, and maintain Geraniums with this comprehensive guide!



## SUCCESS TIPS

- Amend the soil with compost, finely ground bark, or decomposed manure to improve the drainage as needed.
- Consider adding other plants to your container for variety, such as small to medium Hostas or tuberous Begonias.
- Provide some shade for your Geraniums—unless you're growing Sanguineum, which will tolerate full sun in northern regions.
- Expect your Geraniums to arrive potted or "bare root," meaning the plant is in a dormant state and the soil has been washed from the roots, so you won't risk introducing any soil-borne diseases into your garden.
- Bear in mind that next spring will bring new growth after cutting off the foliage in the fall.



## WHERE TO PLANT

Site your Geraniums where the soil drains well and they will receive partial sun to medium shade. If you notice puddles of water 5–6 hours after a hard rain, scout out another site or amend the soil with organic material to raise the level 2–3 inches. While Geraniums aren't fussy about soil, they will not survive in soggy soil or standing water. Once established, these plants can tolerate moderate drought.

## WHEN TO PLANT

The ideal time to plant Geraniums is in the spring after the danger of frost has passed. Expect top growth and additional roots to form within a few weeks of planting, depending on the soil and air temperatures. Flowers will emerge from late spring into summer.

## HOW TO PLANT

- **For outdoor landscape planting**, find a spot where the soil drains well, and your Geraniums will receive partial sun to medium shade. Dig holes and tuck the roots into the soil, pointing downwards and fanned out. Place the growing points at the soil level, and space the plants about 12" apart.
- **For container planting**, select a vessel large enough to accommodate the mature size of your plants and fill it with good quality, well-drained soil—almost any commercially available potting medium will work fine. Ensure there are adequate drainage holes in your pots, as Geraniums must never sit in waterlogged soil. Dig holes and tuck the roots into the soil, pointing downwards and fanned out. Place the growing points at the soil level, and space the plants about 12" apart.
- **Water thoroughly after planting**, soaking the soil to settle it around the roots.

## HOW TO GROW

- **Water periodically during the growing season** if rain does not occur, keeping in mind that weekly deep waterings are better than lighter drinks every day or two. About 1" of water per week is a reasonable estimate of the amount needed during active growth periods.
- **Trim the plants back 25 to 50%** after the early flush of blooms has faded to tidy their shape and encourage another burst of color.
- **Cut off any remaining leaves** in late fall when the foliage begins to fade and wilt with the onset of colder weather.
- **Divide the large Geranium clumps** in the fall every third or fourth year by slicing them in half vertically with a sharp shovel.
- **Replant the divisions** or share with friends.



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