

GERANIUMS

HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



GERANIUMS FOR HOUSE AND GARDEN

The botanical name for annual geraniums is *Pelargonium*. These are tender perennial plants native to South Africa and the Middle East. They have been cultivated in Europe and North America as garden and house plants for over 300 years.

ZONAL GERANIUMS *Pelargonium hortorum*

The word zonal refers to the dark horseshoe-shaped zone on the foliage, which is very apparent in some varieties and less so in others. They are highly popular as summer bedding plants and provide continuous flower colour for a very long season.



GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR GERANIUMS

Geraniums do not wilt easily and can tolerate drier conditions more than most plants. If not watered adequately however, premature yellowing of leaves may result. Hanging baskets and planters in full sun may need water daily. Yellowing of older leaves is to be expected and these should be picked off. Spent flowers should be removed by snapping off the complete flower stem at its base.

FERTILIZING

Your geranium will produce better flower and foliage colour when fertilized regularly. A weekly application of fertilizer for flowering plants such as 15-30-15 will stimulate growth and bloom all summer, particularly when the plants are in hanging baskets or containers.

DESIGNER SERIES Vigorous & large, blooms all season	OTHER ZONAL TYPES	"MOTHER" GERANIUMS
Hot Coral Grape Hot Pink Pink Parfait Purple Rose Dark Rose Red Rose Salmon Violet White Whitefire	Diablo Samba Blues Majic Kardino Noblesse Schone Helena Tango Lavender Tango Orange Tango Pink Tango White Summer Idols	Red Red Hot Pink Purple Purple Peach/Orange Salmon Pink Lavender Orange Pink White Salmon Pink
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A term used for large geraniums that have been grown in a quarantine environment in which cuttings have been taken and now are for sale. ■ Humber also plants up Zonal Geraniums "Designer Series" in hanging baskets for instant colour and show.

IVY LEAVED GERANIUMS *Pelargonium peltatum*

The leaf shape is not unlike true ivy, and all are low growing plants very suitable for use in hanging baskets, window boxes and containers. The profusion of bloom of these varieties makes it an almost impossible task to dead head spent blooms. Fortunately this is not needed and ivy leaved geraniums will continue to perform at their best all summer. There may be short rest periods after which they resume vigorous flowering.

FAVOURITE IVY LEAVED GERANIUM VARIETIES

NAME and COLOUR		NAME and COLOUR	
ACAPULCO COMPACTA	Purple	MINI-LILAC CASCADE	Single lilac
BRIGHT CASCADE	Rose	SALMON QUEEN	Semi-double pink
LILA COMPACTA	Purple	SOFIE	Pink/Rose
LUNA	White	SUMMER ROSE LILAC	Pink/Rose
MINI-PINK CASCADE	Single bright pink	SYBIL HOLMES	Double pink rose bud
MINI-RED CASCADE	Single bright red		

FANCY LEAVED GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium hortorum*)

In these zonal geraniums the zone is not just a darker horseshoe area on the leaf, but often more than one zone or band of colour. Some are marked with a 'butterfly' of another colour and many shades of green, brown, bronze, pink, cream, white, gold or silver are all possible in many combinations. Geranium 'Madame Salleron' with white-edged green leaves, is an exception since it rarely or never flowers. All other Fancy Leaved Geraniums have good flowers. Not only good flowers, but in such shades as to perfectly compliment the foliage colour.



FAVOURITE FANCY LEAVED GERANIUM VARIETIES

NAME AND COLOUR		NAME AND COLOUR	
DOLCE VITA	Blush	MME. WILHELM LANGUTH	Green, white edge – red flower
HAPPY THOUGHTS	Green Variegated – red flower	SKIES OF ITALY	Gold-green, orange - red flower
HAPPY VIOLET	Violet	TRICOLOUR	Red
MADAME SALLERON	Green edged white - no flower	TRUDI	Soft rose-pink flower

SCENTED GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium sp*)

It is difficult to make classifications among Scented Geraniums, but seven fragrance categories are widely recognized (Rose, Mint, Lemon, Fruit, Nut, Spice and Pungent). The fragrant volatile oils can be released by touching, brushing or misting the foliage. Time of day, season of year, temperature, humidity and the subjective interpretation of each individual has an effect on the sensation of fragrance. They are thrifty plants that need little care and all make easy houseplants. The many varieties of leaf shape and texture add even more interest. Recommended for improving the quality of air in the home.

FAVOURITE SCENTED GERANIUM VARIETIES

NAME AND SCENT		NAME AND SCENT	
ALMOND	Nutty	ROUNDLEAF ROSE	Old-fashion rose-mint
ATTAR OF ROSE	Lemon-rose	SNOWFLAKE	Rose, leaves flecked white
CITRONELLA	Lemon (insecticidal)	LADY PLYMOUTH	Light rose, white bordered leaves
COCONUT	Coconut (trailing)	PEPPERMINT	Strong mint, silvery leaves
CITROSA	Lemon (insecticidal)	VARIEGATED NUTMEG	Nut scented
FRENCH LACE	Lemon, crinkled variegated leaves	VARIEGATED MINT-ROSE	Rose-mint, cream edged foliage
GODFREY'S PRIDE	Sweet mint scent		
OAK	Pungent lobed leaves		

REGAL OR MARTHA WASHINGTON GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium domesticum*)

The large Azalea-like blooms are of outstanding beauty. Cool nights are needed to set flower buds. Grown as a greenhouse crop in cold conditions and sold in full bloom in spring. Sometimes disappointing in flower performance in exceptionally hot summers.



STORING YOUR GERANIUMS OVER WINTER

The old method of hanging up geranium plants in the basement might have been successful in old cool damp basements. In our modern well insulated and heated homes, this technique results in dead geraniums. To over-winter in a basement or cool room, each plant should be cut back by half and the roots sealed in a plastic bag containing barely moist peat moss. It's easier to keep only one or a few 'mother' plants. Rescue them from the garden before frost, cut the tops back by half and trim the roots as needed to fit into a pot. Kept in a sunny window and with normal watering and fertilizing, each plant can provide 'cuttings' which can be rooted in small individual pots. As these plant grow, they in turn can provide even more cuttings. The difficulty, of course, is in finding enough space where heat and light are sufficient.

Anyone interested in pursuing the study of geraniums should contact: Geranium & Pelargonium Society of Ontario,
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