

Geraniums



Uses	Geranium essential oil can help reduce inflammation and fight bacteria, making it useful for treating skin conditions like eczema, psoriasis, and acne. Geranium oil's astringent and hemostatic properties can help stop bleeding and promote faster wound healing. Some believe it can help firm up skin and reduce the appearance of cellulite. The scent of geranium can help improve mood and promote a sense of well-being.
Warnings	When using geraniums for medicinal purposes, be cautious: some species are only safe for topical use, others may cause allergic reactions or stomach upset, and pregnant or breastfeeding individuals should consult a doctor before use
Soil	For optimal geranium growth, aim for a well-drained soil with a pH between 6.0 and 6.5
Sun	Geraniums thrive in full sun, requiring 6-8 hours of direct sunlight daily, but can tolerate partial shade, especially at the hottest times of the day
Temp.	For optimal geranium growth, aim for daytime temperatures between 18°C to 24°C and nighttime temperatures around 13°C to 18°C
Water	To grow healthy geraniums, water them deeply when the top inch or two of soil feels dry, ensuring good drainage to prevent root rot, and avoid overwatering, especially during the winter months

Care Tips	To grow thriving geraniums, ensure well-drained soil, ample sunlight (especially for flowering varieties), regular watering (but avoid overwatering), and deadhead spent blooms to encourage more flowers
Pests	Aphids and Spider Mites, control with organic garlic lavender or neem oil spray.
Disease	Bacterial blight, Botrytis blight (gray mold), rust, and root rot, which can cause leaf curling, yellowing, wilting, and stunted growth are all avoided by not overwatering. If you come across signs, stop watering and spray affected areas with a baking soda solution.
Propagate	Geranium can be grown from seed but is much easier propagated by stem cuttings. Cuttings of about 10 – 15 cm are taken from current season growth with a well formed crown of leaves with 3 - 4 nodes and terminal bud. Dipping basal portion of the cuttings in 200 ppm of IBA increase the rooting efficiency.
Harvest	To harvest geraniums for medicinal purposes, aim for full bloom when essential oil content is high, and harvest leaves before the plant sets seed. You can then dry the leaves and roots for later use, or use the leaves and flowers to make essential oil
Store	Can be used fresh oand stored in the fridge for 2 week sr dried and stored in sealed jars for up to 6 months,, used in tinctures which last 3 months in a dark bottle and stored in a cool place.
Science	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0972060X.2013.862930