

Geraniums



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| Uses | <p>Geraniums make excellent companion plants as they can repel pests like earworms, cabbageworms, and Japanese beetles. Scented geraniums may also deter spider mites, leafhoppers, and cotton aphid. Used in their own right in herbal remedies to treat acne, eczema, and impetigo: Geranium oil can help treat skin conditions by reducing oil production and promoting healing Soothes congestion. Geranium oil can help reduce water retention, excess weight, and cellulite. Also treats anxiety, depression, infection, and pain management. It's thought to have antibacterial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties.</p> |
| Warnings | <p>No part of annual or perennial geraniums are toxic. This includes the flowers, leaves, stems and roots. The essential oils in pelargoniums can cause mild skin irritation, called allergic contact dermatitis, in some people.</p> |
| Soil | <p>Geraniums grow best in well-drained, fertile soil that is neutral or alkaline, with a pH of around 6.5. The soil should be loose and crumbly.</p> |
| Sun | <p>Geraniums thrive in full sun, meaning they prefer at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day to produce the most flowers; however, they can tolerate some partial shade, especially during the hottest part of the day in hot climates.</p> |
| Temp. | <p>Geraniums don't require daily watering. Usually, 3 times a week will keep them healthy.</p> |
| Water | <p>Geraniums don't require daily watering. Usually, 3 times a week will keep them healthy, ensure good drainage to avoid root rot.</p> |

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| <h2>Care Tips</h2> | <p>Deadhead spent flowers to encourage continuous blooming, and prune after flowering to maintain shape; in colder months, consider bringing potted geraniums indoors to protect them from frost.</p> |
| <h2>Pests</h2> | <p>Keep an eye out for pests like aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, and caterpillars. Neem oil spray or Lavender spray helps to keep these away.</p> |
| <h2>Disease</h2> | <p>Diseases like rust, powdery mildew, downy mildew, and root rot affect geraniums. Good soil practice and a spray using a baking soda solution will prevent these.</p> |
| <h2>Propogate</h2> | <p>You can grow geraniums from seed but the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommends propagating geraniums in the UK by taking softwood cuttings from spring to autumn.</p> |
| <h2>Harvest</h2> | <p>Geraniums are harvested for medicinal purposes when they are in full bloom and have new growth, but before they have too many old stems. The leaves and young shoots contain the most oil, so it's best to avoid cutting old stems. Harvest when the flowers are fully open and the weather is dry Cut the plant by hand to avoid collecting the stalks Allow the herbage to wilt in a shady area to increase the oil yield</p> |
| <h2>Store</h2> | <p>Fresh flowers: Use in drinks, pot herbs, or essential oils within 2-3 days. Dried flowers can be steep in tea, or stored for later use. They last for up to a year. Dried petals often used for edible coloring or natural dyes. To use in ointments, preserve fresh flowers in olive oil, then mix with wax after three weeks. These can be stored in sealed containers on a shelf up to 3 years but after opened only 1 month.</p> |
| <h2>Science</h2> | <p>https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10873751/#:~:text=Yayli%2C%202016).-,G.,et%20al.%2C%202020).</p> |