

Geranium Guide

*Get the best from
your geraniums*

Quick Tips

- Open packaging immediately on receipt and stand upright where appropriate.
- Remove bagging if present on the pots. If plants seem dry, place pots in a tray of water for half an hour.
- When growing in containers, don't fill to the brim with compost. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot on show to allow for watering – halve this for small pots and cell trays.
- If growing on the windowsill, turn plants regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light.
- Pots should always have drainage holes, but place on saucers/trays to prevent surface staining. It also helps retain extra water during summer heat.
- Always water prior to planting or potting on.
- Prepare soils ahead of planting. For the best establishment, work incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser into the growing area. These will also give you the best results in containers displays too. Alternatively opt for regular liquid feeds through the season, starting at 6 weeks after planting.
- Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- Acclimatise all indoor grown plants to outside conditions after the last frost. Harden off by placing outside by day and back undercover each evening for 7-10 days.



Plug plants: Geranium plugs can be planted straight into flower pouches, patio containers, hanging baskets etc, but are best potted on once or twice. They can be transplanted into their final containers once they have increased in size. As soon as possible upon receipt, ease each plug from its tray, handling by the leaves, not stem. Set individually into 7cm (3in) pots or large cell trays filled with incredicompost®. Pinch the compost around the plugs to firm in. To water and settle, place in a tray of shallow water until compost darkens then allow to drain. Allow the compost surface to dry between watering. Grow on a windowsill with good light and ventilation or in a warm greenhouse. Plants can be potted on again if required. Geraniums respond well to pinching out; remove the growing tip above the 3rd or 4th leaf to encourage more sideshoots and flowers through the season.

5cm-11cm pots: Grow on or pot up in larger pots filled with incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser for planting outside after the last spring frost.

1 litre pots and larger: These larger plants can be planted out or potted on into patio containers and baskets for immediate impact in the garden (Protect from late frosts).

Planting in the garden: Make sure to not plant too deeply, but it is essential that the plants are well firmed in. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and just a little deeper. Break up the bottom of the planting hole and set the plant in place. Mix incredicompost® and incredibloom® with the planting soil and backfill. Firm down the soil to knock out any air pockets. Water well to settle.

Growing in patio containers: For the best results fill pots and baskets with incredicompost® and incredibloom®. All pots should have drainage holes, but place on saucers through summer for water retention. Do not fill containers to the brim. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot rim on show to allow for good watering, without run off. Container grown plants will need frequent watering. Remove spent flowers regularly to keep plants tidy and productive.

General aftercare: To ensure a mass display of blooms, pinch out the growing tip of plants twice while young, once at 15cm high and again when the branches have 3 pairs of leaves. Do not fill containers to the brim. During the growing season, plants may need to be protected from pests such as snails and slugs, as they enjoy eating the young shoots and foliage. Water plants regularly throughout the summer, trying to avoid water on the foliage as this can cause scorching. Always keep the top soil around your plants broken up, so that water can penetrate the roots. Feed and water frequently throughout the growing season to promote an endless supply of colour.

Tips for climbing types: If planting into a container, we would usually advise 5 plants per 45cm (18in) pot, using either our climbing frame or similar for support. Regular feeding should begin 6-8 weeks after planting into the border or containers; this will enhance your plants. To produce the tallest plants, with the most flowers, use high-potash feeds such as Tomato Food. Water well, especially during dry periods. Plants can be cut down and placed in a frost-free environment for the following year, although we recommend you start with fresh plants each year.

Propagation: Most of the plants we offer are recent introductions and therefore protected by Plant Breeder's Rights. Propagation of any of these varieties for commercial sale is illegal.

Please note: The first lower leaves tend to turn yellow as the plants redirect nutrients to new foliage growth. This is nothing to worry about, the yellow leaves can be picked from the plants as they shrivel.

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