

# easy grow guide

## geranium landscaper red

(F1 Pelargonium xhortorum)



### Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

<b>Sowing/Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 6.0 - 6.2, EC <0.75mmhos. Cover seed with vermiculite
<b>Germination Stage 1 &amp; 2: (7 days)</b>	Keep medium uniformly moist until seedlings are hooking above the covering, media temperature should be 72-75°F (22-24°C) but no higher as thermodormancy may occur, keep light levels <1500 f.c. Light is not essential for germination but can be beneficial.
<b>Germination Stage 3:</b>	Media temperature can be dropped to 65-68°F (18-20°C), light levels should be <3000 f.c. HID lights can promote growth and faster flowering in periods of low light. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from 15-5-15, 17-5-17 or 13-2-13, keep media pH at 6.0-6.5 no lower and EC <1.5mmhos.
<b>Germination Stage 4:</b>	Media temperatures can be lowered to 62-65°F (16-18°C), light levels should be maintained around 3000 f.c. Dry down between irrigations but avoid wilt. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from 13-2-13 to tone seedlings. When 3 true leaves are present, you can begin to spray with Cycocel (250-750 ppm) or B-Nine (800-1500) + Cycocel (250-500 ppm) to control growth. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.

### Growing On to Finish: Packs, 4-6" (10-15cm) pots

<b>Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 6.0-6.2 (no lower) and EC <1.5mmhos.
<b>Temperatures:</b>	Temperatures for rooting out after transplant should be 65-68°F (18-20°C) Temperatures for growing on can be lowered to 62-65°F (16-18°C)
<b>Light:</b>	Light levels should be 3000-5000 f.c. as a guide. HID lights can be used in low light periods to give more total light and encourage flowering.
<b>Irrigation:</b>	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid wilting. Geraniums do not like to be too wet but can't tolerate wilt either.
<b>Fertilizer:</b>	Feed 1-2 times per week with 150-200 ppm N from 15-5-15, 17-5-17, or 13-2-13, it is best to use calcium based fertilizers, extra iron can be added if needed. Keep media pH 6.0-6.8, and media EC 1.25-1.75 mmhos, any higher can cause root damage.
<b>Growth Regulators:</b>	Use sprays of Cycocel (350-1500 ppm) or B-Nine (800-1500) + Cycocel (350-1000 ppm) to control growth. Bonzi sprays (2-5 ppm) can also be used once the foliage covers the media but do not drench with Bonzi as it has a strong effect on Geranium growth. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements
<b>Pests:</b>	Aphids, Thrips
<b>Diseases:</b>	Pythium, Botrytis, Alternaria Leafspot, Rust. Necrosis on lower leaves is likely to be caused by media pH <6.0, upper yellow leaves – high media pH >6.8 or low iron.

### Plug Times:

<b>288 plug:</b>	4-6 weeks from sowing to transplant
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### Transplant to Finish:

Variety/Container	Plants per Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
Moulin Rouge – 4" (10cm):	1 x plug	11-12 weeks	15-16 weeks
Mint Chocolate - 4" (10cm):	1 x plug	10-11 weeks	14-15 weeks

Crop times are based on UK Spring trials. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can alter the crop times stated above.