

easy grow guide

geranium summertime

(Pelargonium peltatum)



Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

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| Sowing/Media: | Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 6.0 - 6.2, EC <0.75mmhos. Cover seed with vermiculite |
| Germination Stage 1 & 2: (7 days) | Keep medium uniformly moist until seedlings are hooking above the covering, then dry down the surface between irrigations. Media temperature should be 70-72°F (21-22°C) definitely no higher than 75°F (24°C) as thermodynamicity may occur, keep light levels <1500 f.c. Light is not essential for germination but can be beneficial. |
| Germination Stage 3: | 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. |
| Germination Stage 4: | 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. Good light levels and moisture management are effective for growth control. If required sprays of Cycocel (250-750 ppm) or B-Nine (800-1500) + Cycocel (250-500 ppm) will control growth starting when 3 true leaves are present. |

Growing On to Finish: Packs, 4" (10cm) pots, baskets

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| Media: | Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 6.0-6.2 (no lower) and EC <1.5mmhos. |
| Temperatures: | 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) |
| Light: | Light levels should be 3000-5000 f.c. as a guide. HID lights can be used in low light periods to encourage flowering. Total light is more important than daylength for flowering. |
| Irrigation: | Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid wilting. Geraniums do not like to be too wet but can't tolerate wilt either. |
| Fertilizer: | 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. |
| Growth Regulators: | Good light levels and moisture management are effective for growth control. If required you can 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 reaches the edge of the container, 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 |
| Pests: | Aphids, Thrips |
| Diseases: | Pythium, Botrytis, Bacterial Blight. 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:

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| 288 plug: | 5-6 weeks from sowing to transplant |
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Transplant to Finish:

| Container | Plants per Container | Transplant to Finish | Total Crop Time |
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| 4" (10cm): | 1 x plug | 11-12 weeks | 16-18 weeks |
| 12" (30cm) basket: | 6 x plug | 12-13 weeks | 17-19 weeks |

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