### URBAN FARMER

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# From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Geraniums

Geraniums are some of the most popular flowers to grow. The flowers are easy to start from seed and grow well in containers. Geraniums are also a popular choice for hanging pots.

#### To plant:

Geraniums can be slow to start from seed, so begin them indoors in mid-January. The seeds have a tough outer shell, so it aids in germination to soak them before sowing. Spread the seeds over one half of a dampened paper towel and fold the paper towels in half. Put the towel-soaked seeds in a plastic bag for 24 hours prior to planting. Sow two or three seeds per pot and cover with ½ inch of soil and water lightly. The seeds don't require light to germinate but store them in a warmer spot with an average 75-degree temperature.

#### To grow:

Once Geraniums have three sets of leaves, transplant them outdoors if the last frost date has passed. Harden them off by slowly acclimating them to the change in climate from indoors to outdoors. A week before planting them outside, place them in a safe spot outside for a few hours and increase the time they are exposed to the outdoors each day. Allow the soil to go completely dry between watering. When growing Geraniums from seed, they are usually single-flowered. Once Geraniums are actively growing, pinch off the tops to encourage branching. The flowers will not require deadheading, as they will "shatter" after blooming. If blooms remain after they have died, deadhead them.



Pink Maverick Geranium seeds available at ufseeds.com

During the winter, Geraniums can be moved indoors if kept in a sunny area. In the fall, cut the stems to 6 inches. Once new growth appears, cut off the old leaves. If growing indoors, repot them to accommodate growth.

#### To harvest:

Geraniums will take up to 16 weeks to bloom after planting them from seed. They are often replanted through plant cuttings. Using a knife, cut the stem four inches below its tip. Remove the buds and most of the leaves. Roll the cutting in a newspaper and store in a cool, dark place for 24 hours. After, push the end of the stem into moist soil and store in a shady spot for two days. Then, give the cutting indirect light.

#### What Geraniums crave:

When Geraniums are seedlings, feed them weekly with a water-soluble fertilizer that has been diluted to half its strength. Once









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the Geraniums have three true sets of leaves, continue to fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer but change it to full strength.

During its growing season, fertilize

Geraniums every two weeks with a 5-10-5 fertilizer. During winter months, do not fertilize the Geraniums.

## Where to buy Geranium seeds:

Urban Farmer has a wide variety of Geranium seeds that bloom into a range of colors from red, pink, orange and violet.

Check out our Geranium seed selection on our website at <u>ufseeds.com!</u>



Mix Maverick Geranium seeds available at ufseeds.com





