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Pelargonium graveolens Rose Geranium, Sweet scented geranium PFAF Plant Database

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Summary

Bloom Color: Pink. Main Bloom Time: Early summer, Late summer, Late spring, Mid summer.
Form: Upright or erect.

Physical Characteristics



Pelargonium graveolens is an evergreen Shrub growing to 1.2 m (4ft) by 0.8 m (2ft 7in) at a medium rate.

It is hardy to zone (UK) 9 and is frost tender. It is in leaf all year, in flower from May to July.

The species is hermaphrodite (has both male and female organs).

Suitable for: light (sandy) and medium (loamy) soils and prefers well-drained soil. Suitable pH: acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It cannot grow in the shade. It prefers dry or moist soil.

Synonyms

Habitats

South Wall. By. West Wall. By.

Edible Uses

Edible Parts: [Flowers](#).

Edible Uses: [Condiment](#); [Tea](#).

Flowers - raw. Added to salads[183]. The leaves are rose-scented and are used as a flavouring in desserts, jellies, vinegars etc[183, 238]. The fresh leaves are brewed into a tea[183, 238].

Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.

[Antiinflammatory](#); [Antiseptic](#); [Aromatherapy](#); [Astringent](#); [Cancer](#); [Sedative](#).

An aromatic, rose-scented herb, the whole plant has relaxant, anti-depressant and antiseptic effects, reduces inflammation and controls bleeding[238]. All parts of the plant are astringent[4]. It is used internally in the treatment of pre-menstrual and menopausal problems, nausea, tonsillitis and poor circulation[238]. Externally, it is used to treat acne, haemorrhoids, eczema, bruises, ringworm and lice[238]. The leaves can be used fresh at any time of the year[238]. The essential oil from the leaves is used in aromatherapy[238] and is also applied locally to cervical cancer[218].

Other Uses

[Essential](#).

An essential oil is obtained from the plant, it has an orange-rose fragrance[46, 104, 171]. This plant is the main constituent of geranium oil, which is used extensively in aromatherapy, skin care and as a food flavouring[238]. The leaves are used in pot-pourri[238].

Cultivation details

Landscape Uses: Container, Specimen. Requires a light well-drained neutral to alkaline soil in a sunny position[188, 200]. Plants are not very hardy in Britain, they generally require greenhouse protection but might succeed outdoors when grown in a very sheltered warm spot in the mildest parts of the country[1]. They can also be grown in containers that are placed outdoors in the summer and then brought into the greenhouse or conservatory for the winter[238]. The plants need to be kept fairly dry in the winter[200]. Very tolerant of pruning, they can be cut right down to the base in the autumn when bringing them back indoors, or in the spring to encourage lots of fresh growth[238]. Cultivated for its essential oil in S. France and Spain[171], there are many named varieties[183, 200]. Special Features: Attractive foliage, Fragrant foliage, Not North American native, Attracts butterflies, Attractive flowers or blooms.

Propagation

Seed - best sown as soon as it is ripe in a greenhouse. Stored seed should be sown in early spring in a greenhouse. The seed germinates best with a minimum temperature of 13°C, germination usually taking place within 2 weeks though it sometimes takes some months[200]. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots when they are large enough to handle and grow them on in the greenhouse for at least their first winter. If trying them outdoors, plant them out in early summer and consider giving them extra protection during the winter. Cuttings succeed at almost any time in the growing season but early summer is the best time in order for the new plant to become established before winter.

Other Names

If available other names are mentioned here

Found In

Countries where the plant has been found are listed here if the information is available

Weed Potential

Right plant wrong place. We are currently updating this section. Please note that a plant may be invasive in one area but may not in your area so it's worth checking.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants Status :



Expert comment

Author

Botanical References

200

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