



Bucks Country Gardens

Growing Geraniums From Cuttings

Start next year's geraniums now! Late summer/early fall is a great time to take cuttings from geraniums because it gives them the winter months to root.

Take cuttings from your healthiest plants only so as not to transmit diseases or insects and choose shoots with no flowers or flower buds.

Because these cuttings should be planted as quickly as possible, have everything prepared before you start and clip only a few shoots at a time.

Fill a pot with either sterilized potting soil or equal parts peat moss and sand or perlite. The mixture should be lightweight and porous to allow roots to grow. Bulb pots are good for geranium cuttings because their shallowness lessens the chance of root rot.

Snap off growth about 4-5 inches long; the cutting should be green, not woody. Shorten each cutting to about 3 inches with a sharp knife, just beneath a leaf joint. Remove any leaves below this joint, but be sure to have at least two leaves about it. Dip cut end into hormone powder. Make a hole in the rooting medium with a pencil, insert cutting and firm soil around it.

Place cutting along outside edge of pot with a small indentation in the center of the soil for watering. Do not over water! Geraniums are susceptible to root rot.

Keep plants outside in a protected area such as a sheltered porch (lightly shaded) while weather is clement. Bring indoors before cold weather arrives.

Repot in individual containers as cuttings begin to root and show new growth (usually about 3-5 weeks).

Keep plants out of direct sunlight. As roots develop, and then only gradually, should they be introduced to full sun.