

Wild Geranium

Wild Geranium or Cranesbill is a native perennial that grows in woodlands. It forms dense patches with deep pink blooms and fragrant leaves reminiscent of citronella or lemongrass. It grows best in partial shade and well-draining soil. It blooms in late spring to early summer, welcoming in pollinators of all sorts.

Type: Perennial

Height: 30 cm (12")

Exposure: Part shade

Difficulty: Intermediate



Growing

Cold stratification is the process of breaking seed dormancy through chilling. To artificially cold stratify seeds, place them on a damp paper towel in a sealed bag in the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks before sowing directly outside or starting indoors. To provide natural stratification, plant seeds outside in the fall for next season's blooms.

Sow seeds shallowly at only 3mm (1/8") deep. Seeds should sprout in 1-2 weeks. Keep seedlings moist but not soaking wet. Transplant outside after a hardening off period. Space plants at 30-60 cm (12-24") apart.

Saving

Small seed pods form on upright flower stalks. Once pods dry to brown, gently pick them and place them in a paper bag to dry out further. You can gently crush the pods to release the seeds. Sift the seed/chaff mixture using a fine mesh kitchen strainer. Repeat this step to remove most of the chaff. Put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!