



Joe's Geraniums

I especially remember my father-in-law, Joe, each day as I spend time in the geranium greenhouses. Ask Joseph Thorson's children or grandchildren what his favorite flower was, and they will tell you he loved geraniums. He told me on several occasions that his mother loved to grow geraniums. As he grew them, it helped him remember her.

There are essentially five kinds of geraniums. First is the true, or cranesbill, geranium. Some species of this hardy perennial are native to our mountains. It is an outstanding perennial that requires little care to thrive in your landscape.

When envisioning geraniums, most of us usually think of *Pelargonium*, a type of geranium generally broken into four main groups: seed, zonal, ivy, and regal. There are many varieties and cultivars within each group, and plant breeders and propagators constantly improve geranium flowering, longevity, plant habit, etc.

We start seed, or carefree, geraniums from seed in November and December, then transplant them in January. Seed geraniums have lower input costs, so we can offer them to you at a lower price. They do well in full to part sun with average moisture, and work perfectly for mass plantings or as inexpensive gifts for special occasions. The more light and heat these geraniums receive, the faster they grow and flower. Seed geraniums grow 12-18 inches apart and will bloom until frost.

Zonal, or cutting, geraniums are brought into our greenhouses and are transplanted as small patented cuttings. These are grown in 4-inch pots, requiring more space for larger plants and bigger blooms than seed geraniums. They come in a wide range of colors, and are gorgeous in planters or beds. Zonals' upright growth habit of 12-20 inches and showy, bright blooms are always a hit. Medium moisture, full to part sun, and a little fertilizer will keep them blooming all summer.

One of my wife Delana's favorites for hanging baskets are ivy, or trailing, geraniums. They grow in our hanging baskets and in 2-inch pots. Once established, they will tolerate less water than most basket plants. Ivy geraniums flourish, however, when watered every second or third day during cooler weather and every day in full hot sun during summer. They love a little liquid fertilizer at least once a week. Faded blooms can be "dead-headed" or picked off occasionally for new blossom growth through summer and early fall.

Regal, or Martha Washington geraniums, are our specialty geranium. Their frilly blossoms and deep green serrated leaves make these plants truly regal in appearance. Patented cuttings brought into our greenhouses are transplanted into one-gallon cans and 4-inch pots. One plant, when watered and fertilized regularly, will fill a 14-inch planter and is very showy through the season. Regals prefer full to part sun, and benefit from a bit of shade during the summer afternoons. Our friend Bill of Mountain Desert Nursery in Mountain View, Wyoming, has purchased many gallon regal geraniums through the years, and he says that his clientele can't get enough of them!

With all the different types and varieties of beautiful geraniums to choose from, it isn't surprising that we come from a long line of geranium lovers here at Joe's Greenhouse. Maybe you can find a spot or two in your landscape for a few geraniums to keep things bright this summer, or give some as a gift to gladden someone else's day!

Happy Planting!
Wayne

Happy
Memorial Day!

Whether enjoying
time working in
the yard or
remembering
loved ones, let
Joe's help you with
your Memorial Day
weekend plans!



FAQ

QUESTION:

What is the difference between Nutri-mulch and Soil Pep?

ANSWER:

Soil Pep helps break up and aerate soil. **Nutri-mulch**, created from turkey compost, is a natural fertilizer that enriches soil.

A combination of mulches is usually best when preparing for planting or fertilizing established plants. Don't forget to follow directions for proper spreading and tilling to get healthy, strong plants.



Did You Know in addition to **Nutri-mulch** and **Soil Pep**, we carry a variety of garden mulches including **Peat Moss**, **bark mulches** **Coconut Fiber** and **Utelite®**? These soil amendments aid in creating **rich, healthy soil** for high production gardens and beautiful flower beds.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Kyron Craven, who is called to serve an LDS mission to Fresno, California. At 6' 5", Kyron is known for his ability to help customers take down hanging baskets and load mulch, along with his optimism and excellent work ethic. He loves to play basketball, eat steak, and drive his white car named Gerge. Kyron can also be contacted through Joe's Greenhouse about his successful tilling business.

Frequently Asked Questions