

Geranium (Regal Pelargonium)

Plant type:	Glasshouse perennial
Uses:	Pot plant
Plant height:	25 – 35 cm

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Ball Paper 100 (4cm) plug	Delivery weeks 6 – 10 for mid-April/ May sales Delivery week 42 to overwinter for March/April colour sales
Growing on	Good hygiene is essential at all stages of production
Temperature	A minimum of 18°C day and night after potting for 10 days until root establishment. After 10 days, lower the temperature gradually to approximately 6 - 8°C for a period of 42 days. This temperature serves to induce flowers and needs to be kept for a period of 42 days. The cooling phase should be extended by one day for each day when the temperature of 10°C is markedly exceeded for several hours. Thereafter, raise the temperature again, adjusting it to the available light conditions. Extra light in connection with higher temperatures produce an early flowering plant. Low light and high temperatures result in too big plants.
pH	5.5 - 6.0
Feeding	A balanced NPK weekly feeding should be introduced 2 - 3 weeks after potting, increasing Potassium levels as flower bud develops. Regal Pelargoniums do not need feeding during the cool period.
Growth regulation	Plants do not usually require any growth regulators if grown quite dry. Regals will respond to Chlormequat applied once between the potting and cooling phase, or one to a maximum of two times after the 'cooling phase'.
Pinching	Regal Pelargoniums should not be pinched.
Pot size	11 – 15cm pots (12-13cm being the optimum)
Advice	Allow adequate ventilation to prevent high humidity. Spray prophylactically against Botrytis after 10 days before lowering the temperatures. Space plants well not allowing the foliage to touch. This may be done after the cooling phase. Final spacing approximately 18 plants per square metre. Do not over water, but wilting plants in high light will scorch.

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Culture Information

Common diseases	Botrytis - Grey Mould. Pythium stem and root rot. Xanthomonas - Bacterial Wilt and Rust can be serious though not common diseases of cutting raised Geraniums. Strict monitoring of the crop and clean growing conditions are essential.
Common pests	Whitefly, Aphid, Thrips and Red Spider Mite.

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.