

# Geranium (Zonal) Designer

### Media

- Use a light, well-drained medium with a pH of 6.0 to 6.5.

### Temperature

- First period of about 4 weeks, 18°C.
- The temperature may go down to about 16°C after about 4 - 5 weeks.
- Designer will take cool growing at 12-15°C
- Mentioned temperatures depend very much on which week you start and light intensities.

### Light

- Zonal geraniums require moderate or high light levels.
- Low light intensities can cause stretch.
- Do not put hanging baskets over Zonal Geraniums, as this will reduce light levels and increase the likelihood of a *Botrytis* infection.

### Watering

- Keep the soil evenly moist.
- Water thoroughly, leaching regularly to prevent salt build up.
- On cloudy, dark days, reduce watering to help control *Botrytis* and stretch.

### Fertiliser

- Use a balanced liquid feed.
- Maintain a pH range of 6.0 to 6.5.
- Be sure to monitor soil salts and flush pots with clear water periodically to prevent the build-up of excessive salt levels.

### Pot size

11 – 15cm

### Pinching

- Pinching is not needed for Designer.
- A soft pinch will encourage better branching and more flowers in larger pots but will delay finish at least 3 weeks.

### Controlling growth

- Please make sure to check recommendations for plant growth regulators with your sales rep.

### Disease control

- Geranium areas should always be thoroughly sanitized prior to beginning your growing season and between crops.
- Keep benches and floors free of plant debris and avoid any unnecessary handling of plants.
- Geraniums should be grown drier in the first few weeks to encourage root growth and prevent *Pythium* problems.
- Control *Botrytis* with good air movement, adequate spacing and late afternoon venting of the greenhouse to reduce humidity. Regular applications of a labeled fungicide are highly recommended. Under very humid/wet conditions, no fungicide alone can prevent the spread of *Botrytis*.
- Avoid geranium rust problems with preventative applications of labeled fungicides.

### Common problems

Insects: Thrips, Whitefly, Leaf Miners, Aphids, Caterpillars.

The Designer geraniums are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock plants.

### Crop time

Between 8 – 12 weeks from a Paper 84 plug.

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## ***Culture Information***

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Causes</b>
<b>Plant collapse</b>	<i>Botrytis, Pythium, Rhizoctonia</i> Saturated soil for extended periods of time ( <i>Pythium</i> )
<b>Excess vegetative growth, few flowers</b>	Excessive ammonia in fertiliser. Over fertilisation under low light conditions Low light levels and over watering; wet media
<b>Foliage necrosis</b>	Drying out between watering Low pH High salts
<b>Cupped foliage</b>	Low pH
<b>Poor branching, thin plants</b>	Low fertilisation in early stages of crop Low light levels

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