

Geranium (Zonal) Toscana[®] Dark Leaf

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.
- Mentioned temperatures depend very much of which week you start and light intensities.

Light

- Toscana[®] Green Leaf zonal Geraniums require moderate to 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 – 13cm

Crop time

Between 7 – 10 weeks from a Paper 84 plug

Pinching

- Pinching is not needed for Toscana[®] Dark Leaf zonal Geraniums.
- 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.

All Fantasia Geraniums are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock plants.

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

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

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions.

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