



GERMINATION OF GERANIUM SEED

Many people ask us the best way to germinate Geranium seed. The following method is used by many of our customers and many commercial growers. It also may be used on any other larger size seed that you have trouble germinating.

- 1) Place seeds between two layers of wet paper towels. Encase the paper towels in a small plastic bag. Place the plastic bag in a warm location.
- 2) Leave them for 2 to 4 days, giving them enough of a chance to sprout.
- 3) Remove from the plastic bag and place the sprouts in Jiffy-7's or a good soil medium and cover lightly.
- 4) Place Jiffy-7's or pots in a tray, mist to dampen and put under lights. Make sure plant lights are no more than 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) above seedlings. Leave lights on 24 hours a day for the first 3 to 4 days or until the first real leaves show.
- 5) Make sure to keep soil moist but not saturated.
- 6) After the first real leaves have developed cut back the amount of light to 16 hours a day.
- 7) After about 6 weeks transplant to 10 cm (4 in) pots. To encourage branching you can pinch the top off at the 4 to 6 leaf stage. Fertilize weekly with 10-52-17 and Liquid Seaweed.

Care

- * Allow to dry between waterings, then water thoroughly.
- * To encourage blooming, deadhead spent flowers.
- * To promote bushiness and avoid legginess, pinch the stems.
- * During active growing months, fertilize every 2 weeks. Use a water-soluble fertilizer at half strength.
- * Geraniums can be re-potted as needed during the spring to be refreshed.