

Geraniamania

Planting Since 1972

President's Message

It is now officially October. Here in El Cajon we got our first cold day since March 12, 2019. It was 64 F at 6:00 AM.

In the last bulletin I described a project I was doing - the 10 best or recommended geraniums and/or pelargoniums. Jim Zemick sent me an email with a picture of him surrounded by plants that he has bred or originated.

In the next newsletter we will have pictures of 6 of his plants. Will you be able to identify them? In November we'll award a prize for the most correct entries.

Patrick Powell

In Search Of (ISO)

Donna Buss is looking for a start of Stars and Stripes, a red and white striped pelargonium ivy that was patented by a central coast nursery. One in a series, she has not been able to find it again. Members - if you have Stars and Stripes, please let Donna know, or bring a cutting for her.

(We found this plant available for sale online: <https://www.growjoy.com/store/pc/Global-Stars-and-Stripes-Ivy-Geranium-Plant-p2953.htm>. They're charging \$7.99 and shipping in Spring of 2020.)



Let us know if you have something you're looking for!

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A Publication of the San Diego Geranium Society
The San Diego Geranium Society meets the Second
Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., in Room 101 of the
Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.
Meetings are Free! All Welcome!

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

7:00



Don't forget to -
Bring Cuttings from your Garden -
Bring a plant for "Show and Tell"

Meet Our Speaker

Neal Hodges is a long time member of the Orange County Geranium Society. He'll be speaking about propagation techniques. Now's the time to think about cutting our plants back, and using the cuttings to grow plants for next year's Show and Sale!



Flour Sifters



We're looking for at least 12 vintage flour sifters that we can use for table decorations at the upcoming Geranium Conference next year. We're going to do dress them up - then use them as a pot holder - they're the perfect size for a 4" pot! SO - keep an eye open at Goodwill, thrift stores, estate sales, even eBay - and start bringing them to the meetings. We'll be working in earnest on the Conference come January!

Ask a Master Gardener: Geranium types

Q. What is the difference between seed geraniums and zonal ones? Are there other types?

A. Seed geraniums are a form of zonal geranium that has been grown from seed rather than from tissue cuttings.

Both have zones of color in the leaves (that's how they get the name "zonal"), but seed geraniums are usually more compact and are often the cheapest option. Varieties differ, but they usually have lots of 3- to 4-inch flower heads. Most grow about a foot tall and wide. They are a great option for a mass planting.

Plants labeled "zonal geraniums" can have flower heads up to 6 inches across and, unlike seed geraniums, often have double flowers. But, they usually don't have as many flowers as the seed varieties. The zonal plants grow more upright and can be up to 18 inches tall. As new varieties are developed, you will see fewer differences between the seed and tissue-propagated zonal varieties.

There are two new kinds of zonals that you may see in garden centers. For something different, look for stellar and fancy-leaf varieties.

Some other types of plants commonly sold as annual geraniums are, ivy-leaf, regal and scented-leaf. Ivy-leaf geraniums have waxy leaves that, well, look like ivy. They trail and are great in hanging baskets.

Regal geraniums need cool nights to flower.

Scented leaf varieties flower, but not as impressively as other types. They are grown for the leaves, which can smell like roses, lemons, apples or mints. There is one that smells like citronella and is supposed to repel mosquitoes, but there is no proof that it works.

To confuse things a little more, these plants are called geraniums but are actually pelargoniums. True geraniums, sometimes called hardy geraniums or cranesbills, are tough perennials that can be planted outside and, depending on the variety, are hardy down to zone three. They don't have big balls of flowers like zonal pelargoniums, but their smaller blossoms and pretty foliage are a great addition to our gardens.

Source: <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/lifestyle/4264511-ask-master-gardener-geranium-types>

Want to Try Growing From Seed?

www.parkseed.com/geranium



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