

Wild Geranium

Scientific Name: *Geranium maculatum*



<u>Life Cycle</u>	<u>Plant Height</u>	<u>Plant Spacing</u>	<u>Soil Moisture</u>	<u>Sun Exposure</u>	<u>Bloom Period</u>
Perennial	12 in	10 - 12 in	Medium, Medium-Dry	Full, Partial, Shade	April - July

Wild Geranium is one species that you just cannot pass up. Native to much of eastern North America, it never disappoints. It has lovely dissected leaves, beautiful pinkish-purple flowers, and it readily spreads, forming stunning patches that everything from bees to butterflies cannot resist. Mostly found in woodlands in the wild, it does just as well in full sun! Interestingly, *Geranium maculatum* has a unique way of spreading its seeds. Each seed is packed into a pod and the pods are attached to a structure that resembles a crane's bill. As the bill dries, it literally catapults the seeds away from the parent plant. Each seed has a small tail-like structure attached to it that bends and moves in response to changes in humidity, which helps to drive the seed into the soil where it can safely germinate. In a garden setting it can be important to plant a few later season plants (maybe Asters or Gentians) with it because the leaves can show summer stress.

All information collected from Prairiemoon.com