

Geranium maculatum

Wild or Spotted Geranium

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This lovely and adaptable native wildflower grows in **deciduous** woods and dappled meadows throughout the eastern half of North America.* Its alternative common name, **Cranesbill**, refers to its distinctive seed capsule, which resembles the bill of a crane.



Perennial	Flowers, Buds, Fruit, En Masse
Height: 1½–2 feet	
Spread: 1–1½ feet	
Bloom Color: Light pink, dark pink, lilac	
Characteristics	
Clump-forming, semi- evergreen , herbaceous perennial	
Opposite , palmately -lobed and coarsely-toothed, medium to dark green leaves	
Gynodioecious ; 5-petaled, mostly protandrous ** flowers bloom in loose clusters April to July	
Explosive, beak-like fruit (schizocarp)	
Spreads by rhizomes , but not aggressively	
Attributes	<p>Excellent Replacement for</p> <p>Alliaria petiolata - Garlic Mustard</p> <p>Vinca minor - Periwinkle</p> <p>*It is native in DC. It is common throughout much of PA and in the DE Piedmont but is uncommon in the DE Coastal Plain. In VA it is common in the mountains and the Piedmont but rare in the Coastal Plain.</p> <p>** The second picture illustrates protandry (male parts mature before the female), which helps prevent self-pollination. The flower to the left is in the male phase: anthers are producing pollen and stigmas are absent. The flower entering the female phase shows withering anthers and five emerging stigmas.</p>
Tolerates clay soil, poor soil, dry soil, drought, poor drainage, and rabbits; no serious pests or diseases; deer occasionally severely damage	
Ethnobotanic , therapeutic, and herbal uses	
Attracts bees, syrphid flies, and butterflies to flowers and mourning doves, quail, and deer to seeds; genus is larval host to 21 species of Lepidoptera	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements: Well-drained, average	<p>Water Requirements: Moist</p> <p>If sited in full sun, needs more moisture</p> <p>Foliage yellows or declines in heat and dry soil</p> <p>Use under trees (especially white oak) and in woodland gardens</p> <p>Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8</p>
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	
Water Requirements: Moist	
If sited in full sun, needs more moisture	
Foliage yellows or declines in heat and dry soil	
Use under trees (especially white oak) and in woodland gardens	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden and Simpson Gardens and by Elaine Mills (bottom right), U.S. National Arboretum