

## PELARGONIUM

Pelargoniums are popular garden plants. The genus boasts a variety of growth forms, from shrubbery to succulents. They are drought tolerant and make for excellent water wise gardening.

---

Aromatic leaves are found on most species. These essential oils are used in the perfume industry such as the lemon-scented pelargonium (*Pelargonium citronellum*) and rose-scented pelargonium (*P. graveolens*). Some species are reputed to have medicinal properties (*P. antidysentericum*) while others are edible (*P. rapaceum*).

Many species cannot be grown during winter in the Cape as it is too wet, but they thrive in summer in hot and dry conditions. Pelargoniums need to be planted in sandy soil. Contrary to popular belief, they prefer light shade for part of the day.

