

Pelargonium (Geranium)

Boldly®



NUTRITION

pH: 6.0 – 6.5

EC: (2:1 extraction method) .8 – 1.1

Constant feeding at 200ppm – 250ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 68 – 72 F

Growing on: 68 – 72 F

Holding: 62 – 65 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to slightly dry levels. Avoid both severe dry downs and long periods of wet soil, especially in poor weather conditions. Also avoid excessive soil moisture levels with freshly transplanted plants.

TIMING

4" – 5": 5 – 6 weeks with one 75 cell plant per container.

6"/1GL Royale™: 7 – 8 weeks with one 75 cell plant per container.

8": 9 – 10 weeks with one 75 cell plant per container.

10" – 12" Hanging Basket: 10 – 12 weeks with three to four 75 cell plants per container.

PLANTING

The 75 Liner plants should be planted into a well-drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Plant the liners slightly below the soil level of the 75 cell plug. Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. Pinching should not be needed except for taller material at planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Boldly® *Geraniums* should be grown in a moderate to high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development. Reduced light levels will delay flowering time and flower coverage, and affect overall plant quality.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Growing at a moderate soil moisture level will produce a plant that requires fewer PGR treatments. If required, a tank mix spray application of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 1,250ppm and

Cycocel® (chlormequat) at 750ppm is recommended. Higher rates can be used, up to 2,500ppm B-Nine and 1,000ppm Cycocel, based on plant growth and temperatures. Smaller containers such as 4", 4.25" Grandes™ and 5" pots may require more PGR attention than larger containers.

Geraniums are quite responsive to Florel® (ethephon) at 350ppm. It controls size early in the crop cycle and also encourages additional branching. The 75 Liners have been treated during their growing cycle and only larger containers with longer crop times should be considered for additional Florel treatments. Treatments for larger containers can be considered two to three weeks after transplanting, when the plants are well rooted and actively growing. No Florel treatment should be made later than six to eight weeks before planned sale.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Over-watering can lead to Botrytis, Stem Rot, or Fungus Gnat issues. Control humidity levels, supply moderate to high light, **provide adequate spacing**, grow at moderate soil moisture levels, keep water off foliage in poor weather conditions, and provide adequate air movement. Aphids, Thrips, and Whiteflies can be pests of concern and crops should be scouted on a regular basis.

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Boldly *Pelargonium* finish best in a controlled greenhouse environment, but can be moved outdoors after all threat of frost has passed (late May to early June in Michigan). This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

OTHER TIPS

- **Plant the 75's into their finished containers soon after arrival. Delays in planting can cause lower yellow leaves due to tight spacing and possible dry downs.**
- Maintain soil pH levels of 6.0 – 6.5, provide moderate to high light, supply proper spacing for best plant habit and health, fertilize at a moderate to slightly higher rate, and do not grow too cool. Growing too cool and too wet can greatly delay a crop, cause undue stretching and reduce rooting.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.