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Inside culture

Soil

In potting geraniums, use a mixture of three parts garden loam, one part leaf mold or peat moss, and one part coarse sand. If the soil is of a heavy clay type, use only two parts of soil and add another part of sand to the mixture.

Geraniums raised in pots require constant grooming to maintain form. This means removal of faded flowers, pinching back of extra long tender shoots, and using very light fertilization when needed.

Cuttings may be started in several ways. The commercial grower usually roots them in a bed of coarse, clean sand. The home gardener may put each cutting in a pot of sandy soil. Cuttings should be from two to four inches in length. Half of the larger leaves should be removed. In setting the cutting, press the soil firmly around the base and then water thoroughly. During the next two or three weeks, while roots are forming, the cuttings should be lightly shaded if the weather is warm. After the roots have started, give the cuttings full sunlight, watering just enough to prevent shriveling of the stems.

If winter flowering is desired, propagation should be done in August. A fertile garden loam without any added fertilizer is good as a potting soil. As the plants grow and become pot-bound, they are shifted to the next larger sized container. The soil should be well firmed each time, as this



This is one of a series of *Fact Sheets* reporting Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, F. E. Price, director. Printed and distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Oregon State University, Oregon counties, and U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

favors the production of a short, stocky growth and the formation of flower buds. When plants are four to five inches tall, the tips are cut out to induce branching.

Flowering will usually begin four to five months after the cuttings are started if growth is at a moderate rate. Watering is done only when the soil becomes quite dry and then in very moderate amounts. Water on the foliage or in large amounts will cause spotting of the leaves.

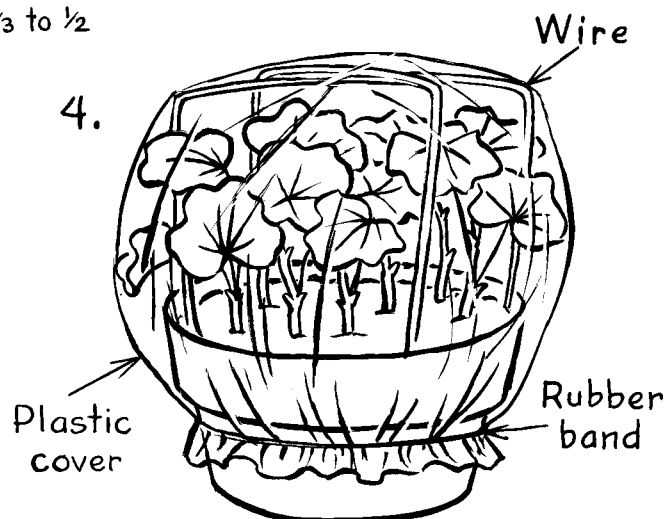
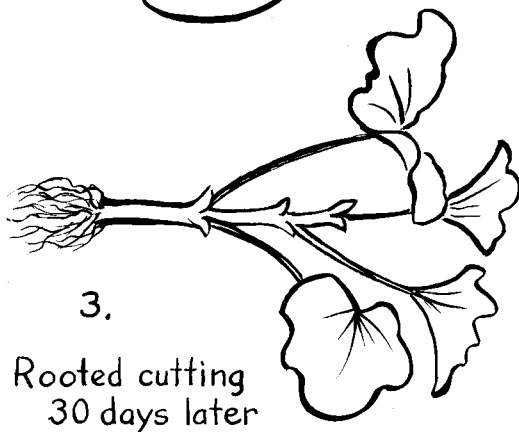
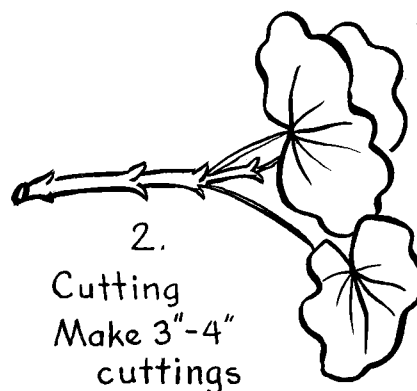
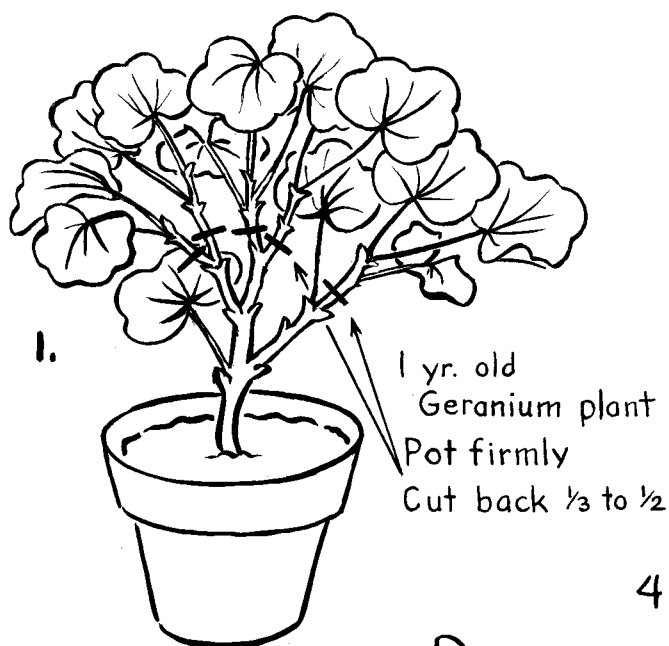
Containers that run four to six inches in diameter serve best for the blooming plant. Regular blooming takes place best when the roots are pot-

bound, the fertility moderate, and the soil moisture quite low.

Diseases

There are several fungus and virus diseases of geraniums, all of which are of interest to the large plant propagator. Some are controlled by use of sprays and dips and others have no control but the introduction of new disease-free stock.

The home flower grower and small propagator can best handle diseases by control of insects which might spread the problem and by careful selection of plants. Never keep any plant around that is not in good health and growing properly.



Cuttings placed in pot of sand or perlite
Wires support plastic cover to hold moisture