Rainbow Cranesbill

Geranium wallichianum 'Rainbow'



Rainbow Cranesbill flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Hardy Wild Geranium

Description:

Dense foliage crowds out weeds and is tinged with red in cool weather; saucer shaped, blue flowers have white centers, a violet blush and deep blue veins; deadhead spent flowers for reblooming later in the season

Ornamental Features

Rainbow Cranesbill has masses of beautiful blue flowers with violet overtones, white eyes and navy blue veins at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive deeply cut lobed palmate leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Rainbow Cranesbill is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Rainbow Cranesbill is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rainbow Cranesbill will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Rainbow Cranesbill is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.