



The Latest Dirt

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Entire Alphabet Found on the Wing Patterns of Butterflies

By [Pinar Noorata](#) on November 13, 2013

Norwegian nature photographer Kjell Bloch Sandved has devoted his photographic career to capturing the beauty of the world we live in and along the way, amassed a collection of butterfly and moth images with interesting patterns on their wings. Sandved's keen eye took notice of the spectacular shapes the natural designs came in, recognizing their resemblance to letters of the alphabet. As a result, he formed the Butterfly Alphabet.

Featuring all twenty-six letters in the English alphabet, as well as the ten single-digit numbers (0 through 9), Sandved assembled a wonderfully colorful collection of readable butterfly and moth wings. Since compiling his discovery into an alphabet, Sandved has been offering customers the chance to not only purchase a poster of the full alphabet but to even request custom prints of words spelled out in the butterfly letters.



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Garden Plants to Help Keep Bugs Away!

- Marigolds. The scent of a marigold will deter plant lice, mosquitoes, and even rabbits.
- Chrysanthemums. This might be the best plant to deter bugs.
- Mint. Mint plants can repel spiders, ants, and mosquitoes.
- Basil. Repel mosquitoes and houseflies with this wonderful herb.
- Citronella grass.
- Lavender.
- Chives.
- Petunias.

Geraniums bloom in bunches and sport a variety of saturated colors, including purple, red, white and yellow. They're also known to repel **mosquitoes**, among other insects.

Rosemary. Though you'll want to plant an herb garden for cooking, rosemary repels flies and mosquitoes. It also has a pungent scent that drives away other bugs, including cabbage moths.

[Does lavender repel roaches?](#)

While lavender oil is a natural repellent against insects, including flies and fleas, it is not usually effective against roaches. Citrus oil, peppermint oil and bay leaves repel roaches naturally. You can combine lavender oil with them to create an all-around insect repellent for your home.

If you're planning to gather around a fire, try burning a little sage or rosemary. The incense these plants give off when they burn not only smells good but is unpleasant enough to most species of insects that it'll repel them—as long as you're near the smoke.

Planting certain herbs in your backyard or around the perimeter of your home can keep flies, mosquitoes, ants and other insect pests away. Basil controls flies and mosquitoes, as does garlic. Sage repels ticks, and spearmint keeps ants away. Catnip and lemongrass are particularly effective for repelling mosquitoes.

Farmer's Almanac – 10 plants to repel bugs/insects

- 1. Lavender-** Not only is [lavender](#) beautiful and fragrant, but it is known to repel mosquitoes, fleas, flies, and moths.
- 2. Basil-** While we all love the smell of basil, mosquitoes, moths, and flies are not fans. Use basil to repel flies and moths in your garden, and crush leaves and rub on your skin while your working in the garden to keep mosquitos off you!
- 3. Thyme-** This plant comes in many varieties, and it makes a wonderful ground cover for dry, rocky areas. [Thyme](#) will also help keep mosquitoes away from your gardens.
- 4. Mint-** Mint is another mosquito repellent, but one that you should use with care because it spreads aggressively and may take over a planting. Plant it in pots and place it near doorways.
- 5. Lemongrass-** This beautiful grassy plant is packed with citronella, which is one of the best-known alternatives to synthetic repellents like DEET. Crush the leaves and rub on the skin (test a small area first).
- 6. Alliums-** This member of the onion family is known for tall spikes that produce gigantic balls of purple flowers (although there are also smaller varieties). Alliums are one of the best defenses against a variety of pests, including cabbage worms, aphids, carrot flies, and slugs, as they dislike the smell.
- 7. Chrysanthemums-** Use these flowers as a border planting around your home to keep out bedbugs, fleas, lice, roaches, ants, and more. These plants contain naturally-occurring pyrethrin, an

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insecticide. They repel ticks, spider mites, Japanese beetles, and other garden pests.

[Try making this DIY pest spray!](#) Chrysanthemum produces a natural chemical called pyrethrin, which is the key ingredient in common organic pest control. Pyrethrum spray, made by steeping the dried petals in boiling water, can be used to control a number of sucking pests, from aphids to mites, and has also proven effective on a variety of caterpillars.

Ingredients:

½ cup dried chrysanthemum flower heads, coarsely ground

1 teaspoon pure soap flakes

1 teaspoon vegetable oil

Directions:

Combine the chrysanthemum flowers with 4 cups warm water in a bucket or jug. Cover and steep for 3 hours. Strain the liquid through a fine-mesh sieve into a spray bottle, discarding the flowers. Add the soap flakes and oil and shake vigorously, and it's ready to use.

NOTE: We recommend wearing a mask when spraying and to only spray in the early morning or evening when bees aren't active, as this spray is toxic to bees. The spray will remain effective for 12–24 hours, so only make up as much as you need.

Chive Spray

Best for powdery mildew, apple scab, and black/brown spot.

Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease that likes to target large-leafed, warm-season crops, such as zucchini, pumpkin, and cucumber. Unlike other fungal conditions, it doesn't need wet weather to thrive but, being a parasitic fungus, requires living plant tissue on which to grow. Frosts will usually kill the spores, so areas that don't get any typically struggle with it. Powdery mildew is lazy and does best when conditions are dry and when competition from other fungal spores is diminished. Chive spray throws a hefty challenge at it, and thanks to its antibacterial qualities, will quickly control the issue with regular use.

Ingredients:

1 cup chive flowers, firmly packed

Boiling water

Liquid dish soap

Directions:

Steep the flowers in 4 cups boiling water in a bowl and leave to stand until cool. Once cooled, add a few drops of dish soap, which helps the solution to stick, and it is ready to spray on crops to help alleviate apple scab, powdery mildew, and black/ brown spot.

Garlic chives can be used in the same way to fight against aphids and spider mites, in addition to fungal issues.

Excerpted with permission from [Root to Bloom](#) by Mat Pember and Jocelyn Cross, published by Hardie Grant March 2019.

8. Petunias- Known for their many colors and a profusion of flowers, petunias help repel leafhoppers, squash bugs, tomato hornworms, and aphids—simply plant near brassicas (cruciferous veggies), beans, basil, tomatoes, grapes, corn, and peppers. Roses also do well when this natural insect deterrent is planted nearby.

9. Marigolds- The marigold is one of the most well-known insect-repelling plants and with good reason — they have a scent that will keep pests like mosquitoes, nematodes like cabbage worms, and other pests away. Plant marigolds to attract beneficial insects that attack and kill aphids. Ladybugs are especially fond of aphids.

10. Mosquito Plant- Mosquito Plant (citrosa geraniums or *Pelargonium citrosum*) is an attractive tropical plant with lacy green foliage and beautiful flowers and a member of the geranium family. It is prized for its citrus aroma that comes from the oils in the foliage. They're certainly beautiful plants to grow in the backyard, but if you're planting them because of the promise of fewer bugs flying around your yard, you'll have to crush the leaves to obtain any bug-repelling properties. Unfortunately, the

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effects are not very long-lasting—only for about 30 minutes.

Pest-repelling plants can be both fragrant and beautiful. Try planting a few of these in your garden to keep the bug population in check.

Perennial Geranium

Coming in a huge range of shapes, colors, and sizes, perennial geraniums make beautiful garden plants. However, don't confuse them with annual geraniums, which aren't even related (those are actually in the genus *Pelargonium*). There are over 300 species and varieties of perennial geraniums, so it's easy to find one to suit your needs. Do you have small nooks and crannies to fill? There's a geranium for that. Looking for a flowering groundcover to spruce up a shady spot? There's a geranium for that, too! No matter your yard's conditions, you're bound to find a perennial geranium that will work.

GENUS NAME-	Geranium sp.	Chartreuse/Gold
LIGHT	Part Sun	Spring Bloom
	Shade	Fall Bloom
	Sun	Summer Bloom
		SEASON FEATURES Colorful Fall Foliage,
PLANT TYPE	Perennial	
	6 to 12 inches	
	1 to 3 feet	Deer Resistant
HEIGHT-	3 to 8 feet	Groundcover
		Drought Tolerant
WIDTH	6 inches to 4 feet	PROBLEM SOLVERS Slope/Erosion Control
	Blue	SPECIAL FEATURES Low Maintenance
	Purple	
	White	ZONES 3,4,5,6,7,8,9
FLOWER COLOR	Pink	
FOLIAGE COLOR	Blue/Green	PROPAGATION Division
		Seed

Perennial Geraniums:

Geranium ibericum x 'Johnson's Blue Cranesbill'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Geranium himalayense 'Johnson's Blue'

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Height:** 15-18" **Spread:** 24-36"

Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part sun **Hardiness:** Zones 4-8

Water Requirements: Average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Prefers weekly watering, more in

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extreme heat. **Soil Requirements:** Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH.

Growth Habit: Mounded, becoming more sprawling as the growing season progresses.

Bloom Time: Spring to fall **Bloom Color:** Blue violet **Bloom Form:** 1 1/2-2" cup shaped, 5 petal flowers, widely open to a flat saucer **Foliage:** Large green, finely cut divided **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.

Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky.

Maintenance: Easy to care for with regular watering.

Other: Propagates by division. Somewhat tolerant of urban conditions.

'Johnson's Blue' is considered to have the truest blue flower of the Cranesbills. It grows quite quickly with lovely dense foliage to fill an open space. Large blue blooms with darker veining are held in clusters above the foliage, giving the plant in bloom an airy appearance. After blooming, 'Johnson's Blue' can look pretty floppy and scraggly with numerous bare, branched flower stems. The foliage may also become quite sprawling and leggy. Remove the flower stems and as much as the foliage as is necessary to achieve a neat appearance, cutting back to the ground if need be. Simply shear it back with a garden shear, and fresh foliage will emerge as well as additional blooms.

When foliage remains fresh, which it may in full sun and with not too much fertilize, it adds elegant texture to the garden. Lovely mounds of large, deeply cut lobed leaves are terrific in both casual and formal plantings. An occasional tiny plant may pop up from self-seeding, either remove or plant elsewhere. Division is rarely necessary other than to propagate additional plants. Excellent as a softening transition against hardscapes or as an accent plant. 'Johnson's Blue' is a perfect woodland garden plant if the site is not too shady.

'Johnson's Blue' has been a garden staple for a very long time, and has been considered the classic blue Cranesbill. New hybrids should also be considered when making a selection. 'Rozanne' has a longer bloom period and does not get quite so scraggly after blooming. A heavy layer of mulch is helpful in zones 3 and 4 to protect the roots. 'Johnson's Blue' is a pretty adaptable and easy to care for perennial that will generally live for ten years or more.

Geranium x 'Rozanne'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Rozanne Cranesbill, Blood Red Cranesbill

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 4-9 **Height:** 18-20" **Spread:** 24"

Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part shade **Water Requirements:** Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. **Soil Requirements:** Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH.

Growth Habit: Mounded, becoming more sprawling as the growing season progresses.

Bloom Time: June until frost **Bloom Color:** Violet blue with lighter eyes **Bloom Form:** 1 1/2-2 1/2" saucer shaped flowers **Foliage:** Deep green finely divided **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.

Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky.

Maintenance: Very easy care **Other:** Propagates by division.

'Rozanne' was introduced in the early 2000s, and quickly become a gardening favorite. It is probably the best blooming Cranesbill, flowering non-stop from early summer through late fall. The foliage forms a compact, horizontal mound that does not get leggy and shaggy. Sun to half day shade is ideal, and just about any soil condition suits 'Rozanne' just fine. Extremely hardy, 'Rozanne' can survive as far north as zones 2 and 3 with heavy mulching. 'Rozanne's' powdery violet blue blooms float delicately above the foliage. Leaves are a deep green and slightly marbled with chartreuse. Although the foliage holds up better than other Cranesbills, pruning and

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deadheading will still be necessary if you prefer to keep the plant neat and fresh. Shear off the spent blooms and prune out fading foliage at ground level. New foliage will quickly emerge, as well as a new batch of blooms. Growing in full to mostly sun will help keep the plant looking its' best, and don't overdo the fertilizer. 'Rozanne' is a sterile hybrid and will not self-seed.

Heat and humidity are no problem for 'Rozanne', but be sure to water weekly in extreme heat. A little afternoon shade will benefit the plant in hot summer regions. 'Rozanne' is great tucked in or spilling over just about anywhere, and is perfect for edging a perennial border. Drought tolerant enough to hold up in rock gardens and street plantings.

Geranium x 'Brookside'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 4-8

Height: 16-24" **Spread:** 24" **Sun/Shade Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Requires weekly watering, more often in extreme heat **Soil Requirements:** Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH, but will tolerate alkaline and clay if well drained. **Growth Habit:** Mounded, becoming more sprawling as the growing season progresses. **Bloom Time:** End of May into June, repeating into August or September

Bloom Color: Blue lavender with a little purple veining and white centers. **Bloom Form:** Large Cup shaped

Foliage: Green, fine and deeply cut foliage. **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.

Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky.

Maintenance: Easy to grow and care for. **Other:** Propagates by division.

'Brookside' blooms every bit as long or longer than 'Rozanne' and has one of the largest flowers of the blue varieties. By many it is preferred over 'Johnson's Blue' with a better "true" blue, and some say it is the best blue Geranium. Lacy deeply cut foliage is pretty heat resistant, holding a fresh look through most of summer. If it gets tattered looking, shear back the spent flower stems and prune out poor looking foliage at the ground level. Fresh foliage will emerge and blooming will begin again.

'Brookside's' foliage grows rapidly in spring, forming an upright mound and spreading wide slowly. If it spreads too wide, divide 'Brookside' in spring or fall every few years. In cool climates full to mostly sun is ideal, morning sun or some afternoon shade is best in warmer regions. Foliage turns orange red in autumn.

'Brookside' is fairly adaptable to either dry or moist conditions and is not fussy about pH or soil, except that it does require well drained soil. It is also somewhat tolerant of urban conditions. Expect 'Brookside' to live about 10 years.

Most are long bloomers, some self-seed (watch for tiny plants to pop up, to either remove or plant elsewhere). Full sun is preferred but some can tolerate light shade, especially further south. The cultivar Rozanne is very tolerant of heat and humidity and has one of the longest bloom seasons of the Cranebills. It is also very compact, making it a great choice for containers and garden borders. Winter protection is suggested in zones 3 and 4, use 3-4 inches of mulch.

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Cranesbill x 'Jolly Bee'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Cranesbill Geranium

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 4-8 **Height:** 16-24" **Spread:** 23-30"

Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well drained soil.

Soil Requirements: Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH, but is tolerant of average soil if well drained.

Growth Habit: Mounded, becoming more sprawling as the growing season progresses.

Bloom Time: May through October **Bloom Color:** Blue violet with white center **Bloom Form:** Cup shaped

Foliage: Green finely divided **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust. **Fertilize:** Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky. **Maintenance:** Easy to care for. Deadhead to encourage blooming. **Other:** Propagates by division. Like most of the newer Cranesbill hybrids, 'Jolly Bee' is a prolific bloomer. Large violet blue blooms are veined in violet red with white centers. In cool summers, the bloom color will be a deeper blue. The foliage is a medium green with bright marbled highlights. 'Jolly Bee' has a bit better mounding habit than 'Rozanne', which has a more horizontal habit. Otherwise, 'Jolly Bee' is considered nearly identical to 'Rozanne'. 'Jolly Bee' is well behaved and will do a lovely job in a perennial border, fronting hedges or foundation plantings or as an accent plant. And it looks great spilling over landscape walls or nestled in a rock garden.

'Jolly Bee' is an easy to grow and care for perennial. It has fairly good heat tolerance, is not fussy about soil type or pH, and will tolerate urban pollution. Moist conditions are tolerated if the soil is well drained. Like other Cranesbill, 'Jolly Bee' may need rejuvenation by mid to late summer. Shear off spent blooms and stems for a neater appearance and remove any foliage that has deteriorated. New foliage will quickly emerge and blooming will begin shortly thereafter. Blooming is fairly continuous without deadheading, but may be improved by removing the spent blooms and stems. Although 'Jolly Bee' does self-seed, the seeds are rarely viable, so don't expect to see new plants pop up. Divide in spring or fall to propagate new plants. Expect 'Jolly Bee' to live about 10 years.

Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Cambridge Geranium **Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

Hardiness: Zones 4-8 **Height:** 6-10" **Spread:** 10-24"

Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Drought tolerant.

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Soil Requirements: Not fussy about soil type or pH. **Growth Habit:** Mounded, spreading
Bloom Time: June through July, reblooming through September **Bloom Color:** Shell pink with rose centers
Bloom Form: 5 petal 3/4" cup saucer flowers **Foliage:** Dark green, finely divided rounded lobes.
Fragrance: Foliage has a light spicy scent. **Pest and Disease Resistance:** Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.
Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring only where soil is exceptionally poor. Over fertilizing will cause the plant to spread aggressively. **Maintenance:** Easy to grow and care for **Other:** Propagates by division or cuttings, deer resistant.

'Biokovo' is a delightful Cranesbill with delicate pink blooms and rose eyes and stamens. The flowers open into a cup shape, then open wide to a flat saucer, eventually almost turning backward toward the stems. The initial bloom period will last up to five weeks, lighter reblooming continuing into late summer. Deadheading spent blooms will encourage the reblooming. The dense foliage is ferny and ground hugging, making it excellent as a groundcover, especially for dry shady areas. Its' dwarf stature also makes it a wonderful choice for edging a perennial border or garden walk, or as an accent plant in a rock garden. It adapts well to moist or dry conditions, but does prefer well drained soil. In regions with hot summer, the plant will benefit from afternoon shade.

'Biokovo' will spread by underground rhizomes, so give it some room or plan to divide every 3 or 4 years to control size. A mature plant may spread to as much as three feet wide. If grown in fertile soil that receives regular water and fertilizer, 'Biokovo' will spread aggressively. Foliage turns several shades of reds, orange and golden in autumn. A light spicy scent comes from the foliage. Under ideal growing conditions you can expect 'Biokovo' to live about ten years. 'Biokovo' is a very tough perennial, an excellent variety of hardy geranium.

Geranium cinereum 'Ballerina'



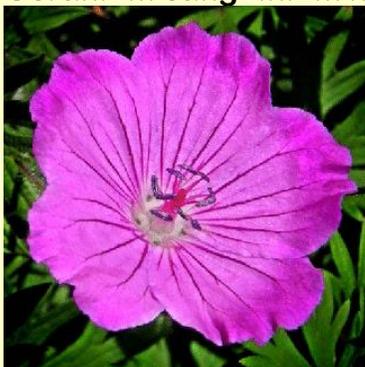
Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Alpine Geranium, Greyleaf Cranesbill **Hardiness:** Zones 3-9
Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Height:** 6-8". **Spread:** 12-15"
Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part shade
Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Drought tolerant once established.

Soil Requirements: Not fussy about pH or soil type if the soil is well drained.
Growth Habit: Mounded **Bloom Time:** May into July, reblooming through September **Bloom Color:** Pink veined with purple **Bloom Form:** 2" Cup shaped **Foliage:** Green finely divided **Fragrance:** Foliage is lightly fragrant.
Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.
Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky or spread aggressively.

Maintenance: Very easy to grow and care for. **Other:** Propagates by division, deer resistant.
'Ballerina's' dainty blooms are lilac pink with crimson pink veining and dark purplish centers. The finely veined petals are dramatic when viewed up close, so this is an excellent choice for an entry garden or in containers. 'Ballerina' is an early bloomer, and will continue light blooming well into fall if deadheaded. The foliage forms a dense mat to make an ideal ground cover, perfect as an under planting.
'Ballerina' is a tough and vigorous perennial that tolerates heat and humidity as well as urban conditions. It does very well as an alpine plant, it is a native in the Pyrenees mountains. It loves cool nights and is very cold hardy. When planted in regions with hot summers, afternoon shade will benefit the plant. 'Ballerina' spread through underground rhizomes, but not aggressively. Self-seeding is limited. In general, 'Ballerina' does not need feeding unless soil is exceptionally poor. It will thrive on neglect.

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Geranium sanguinum x 'Tiny Monster'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium **Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 5-8
Height: 12-18". **Spread:** 18-36". **Sun/Shade Requirements:** Full sun to part sun
Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Drought tolerant once established.

Soil Requirements: Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH.

Growth Habit: Mounded **Foliage:** Green, deeply cut fine foliage

Bloom Time: May through October **Bloom Color:** Bright magenta **Bloom Form:** 1-1 1/2" Cup shaped

Fragrance: None noted. **Pest and Disease Resistance:** Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust. **Fertilize:** Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky. **Maintenance:** Sterile and will not self-seed, which also allows longer flowering period. The heaviest blooming is usually about June through August. Deadheading spent blooms will encourage continued blooming. If foliage does become ragged, just snip out near the ground and new foliage will quickly emerge. **Other:** Propagates by division.

Vivid magenta flowers with red purple veining are produced nonstop all summer on 'Tiny Monster'. Blooms are held 4-6" above the foliage on branched stems from late spring through late summer. The plant spreads quickly to form a dense mound that remains quite fresh all season, turning rich red in autumn in cold climates. Plant in full to part sun so the foliage doesn't sprawl and fewer flowers are produced. In regions with hot summers, afternoon shade will benefit 'Tiny Monster'. 'Tiny Monster' is a stunning ground cover or when planted in masses. Blooms are vivid and long lasting enough to use as an accent plant or creates a wonderful border for a perennial garden. Drought tolerance makes it an excellent filler in a rock garden.

Geranium cinereum 'Purple Pillow'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium, Cranesbill Geranium, 'Ravpil'

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 4-8

Height: 6-8". **Spread:** 12-24". **Sun/Shade Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil.

Soil Requirements: Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH, but not fussy.

Growth Habit: Compact and mounded **Bloom Time:** May through June, reblooming through September

Bloom Color: Red purple with distinct dark veining **Bloom Form:** 1" cup shaped

Foliage: Silvery green leaves, deeply lobed **Fragrance:** Foliage is lightly fragrant.

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust.

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Fertilize: Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky.

Maintenance: Very easy to grow and care for. **Other:** Propagates by division.

'Purple Pillow's' vivid blooms are a show stopper. Rich purple red flowers are held above delicate foliage. The foliage has a silvery shimmer in sunlight and the purple tinged leaves turn coppery in autumn. 'Purple Pillow' prefers a moist, very well drained soil, it is quite drought tolerant once established. In cooler regions grow in full to mostly sun. Afternoon sun will benefit the plant in regions with hot summers.

'Purple Pillow' is stunning in masses or as an accent plant. The dwarf stature lends 'Purple Pillow' well to underplanting, edging perennial beds, or fronting foundation plantings. As a groundcover, 'Purple Pillow' is not quite as dense as other dwarf Cranesbill. It will cover an area nicely, but may not be dense enough to prohibit weed growth. Shear the plant back lightly after flowering to encourage new growth from the center and to encourage reblooming.

Geranium sanguineum 'Bloody Cranesbill'



Common Name: Hardy Geranium **Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial **Hardiness:** Zones 3-8

Height: 9-12" **Spread:** 9-12" **Sun/Shade Requirements:** Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Low to average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil.

Soil Requirements: Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH.

Growth Habit: Dense leafy mound **Bloom Time:** June through August **Bloom Color:** Violet with darker veining.

Bloom Form: Cup shaped, opening wide to nearly flat. **Foliage:** Green, deeply divided **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust. **Fertilize:** Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky. **Maintenance:** Very easy to grow and care for. **Other:**

Propagates by seed or division.

'Bloody Cranesbill' is the species plant that many cultivars originate from. It is a British native wildflower and blooms prolifically with little encouragement. Blooms may appear as early as early May, but the primary bloom period is Late May through June. Deadheading will encourage continued blooming. The leaves of 'Bloody Cranesbill' are more deeply cut than other hardy geraniums, lending a very delicate appearance, a lovely foliage when out of bloom. The foliage may get a bit ragged and sprawling after the first bloom period, a hard shearing will rejuvenate the plant and blooming will begin again.

'Bloody Cranesbill' is generally not invasive, but in ideal conditions, such as rich, moist soil and frequent fertilizing, it can spread quite rapidly. It will self-seed lightly, but the new plants may not come up true, particularly if other Cranesbill are grown nearby. Foliage turns a vibrant crimson in autumn, hence its' name. A thick layer of mulch in zone 4 may be beneficial through winter, and may even survive in zone 3 when heavily mulched.

'Nanum' is a dwarf version of this species plant, growing to about 8" it is more compact. Flowers are more cup shaped and 'Nanum' blooms more prolifically. Both make an excellent ground cover or border edging. Heat tolerant enough for a rock garden, but it may need supplemental water in extended dry period.

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Geranium versicolor 'Pencilled Geranium'



Common Name: Pencilled Cranesbill, Veined Geranium

Plant Type: Semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial. **Hardiness:** Zones 4-8 **Height:** 18-24". **Spread:** 18-24"

Sun/Shade Requirements: Full sun to part shade **Water Requirements:** Average water needs, prefers a well-drained soil. Somewhat drought tolerant once established but in hot periods will prefer regular watering.

Soil Requirements: Prefers loamy or sandy well drained soil with a neutral pH.

Growth Habit: Mounded clump forming **Bloom Time:** June to August. **Bloom Color:** White to pink with magenta veining **Bloom Form:** 1 - 1 1/2" funnel shaped with five notched petals. **Foliage:** Light green broad lobed and deeply toothed leaves, often with brown markings. **Fragrance:** None

Pest and Disease Resistance: Not typically bothered by pests. In wet humid conditions is susceptible to root rot, mold, powdery mildew, leaf spot and rust. **Fertilize:** Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring. If a severe shearing or cut back to the ground is necessary, fertilize as the foliage begins to regrow. Over fertilizing can cause the plant to become sprawling and lanky. **Maintenance:** Very easy to grow and care for. **Other:** Propagates by seed or division.

'Pencilled Geranium' has exquisite petals of white or shades of pink with distinct purple veining that appears to be drawn on with a colored pencil. This species perennial is a wildflower native to the Balkans and Italy, and is a parent of several hybrid Cranesbills. The flowers are on the small side, but it does flower prolifically from June to August and may flower sporadically through October. It will bloom even in fairly heavy shade, but will do best with at least part sun. In regions with hot summer, part shade especially in the afternoon will benefit the plant. 'Pencilled Geranium'; will naturalize well and be quite at home in a casual cottage garden. Excellent in a woodland garden if the soil is moist. Will form a dense enough mat for a groundcover. "Pencilled Geranium" is a tough perennial that will adapt to a wide range of conditions. The best source for this Geranium is a wildflower seed company.

From fellow Master Gardener Elisa Oetting:

I need to downsize my plant collection as it is outgrowing my wintering space.

Plants up for Adoption!

Below are three Angel Trumpet plants that need a new home. Blooms are yellow. Included are care instructions that I've used for last 3 years with success. If anyone is interested in them, contact Elisa Oetting, 573-694-8935 or email elisa.oetting@gmail.com.

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

Brugmansia ANGEL TRUMPETS

The necessity for fragrant summer evenings! Brugmansia are the Queen of the tropical plants. A few easy pointers will help you be successful.

*While they are tropical, they come from higher elevations, so in Missouri, they do best protected from hot afternoon sun.

East and North exposures are good.

*They are HEAVY feeders. Most that fail to perform either have too much shade or not enough food. Our recipe during growing season: Top dress twice with Osmocote, April and July. Top-dress with Milorganite every two weeks April thru September. Liquid feed with Miracle Gro or Peters 20-20-20 EVERY time you water.

*Before a freeze in fall, remove all leaves and blooms and trim back green tips. Store above 40 degrees in a cool dark area. Basement, garage, spare room. Water only when soil is dry during dormancy.

Over 200 varieties! Please email us: info@vintagehill.com for the Brugmansia list, many we can ship.



Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter



Cleaning Fruit - Chemical-free and EASY!



FARMER'S PAL

Fill sink with **water**, add 1 Cup of **Vinegar**, and Stir. Add all fruit, and Soak for 10 minutes. Water will be dirty, and fruit will sparkle with no wax, or dirty film. Great for Berries too, as it keeps them from molding. Do this with strawberries, and they last for weeks!

SHARE this post with your friends!

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

RECIPE TIME

Apple Pie Fries



by [LENA ABRAHAM](#)

SEP 22, 2017

The sweet version of your favorite guilty pleasure.

YIELDS:10 – 12; PREP TIME: 20 MINS; TOTAL TIME: 40 MINS

INGREDIENTS

- 3 c. apples, peeled, cored, and finely chopped
 - Juice of 1 lemon
 - 2 c. water
 - 1/2 c. packed brown sugar
 - 1/4 c. cornstarch
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - 1 tsp. cinnamon
 - Pinch kosher salt
 - 2 Eggs, beaten
 - 2 tbsp. Sanding sugar (Ingredients: Pure Cane Sugar, It does not contain nuts. It does not contain gluten. Vegan friendly. GMO-free)
 - Caramel, for serving

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, squeeze lemon juice on apples to keep them from browning.

In a medium sauce pan over medium heat, combine water with brown sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, vanilla and kosher salt. Whisk until fully combined.

Add apples to the pan and bring mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Cook until apples are tender, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Spread one pie crust out on prepared baking sheet. Spread apple mixture onto pie crust, and top with a second pie crust.

Brush with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar. Using a pizza cutter, cut into fry shapes.

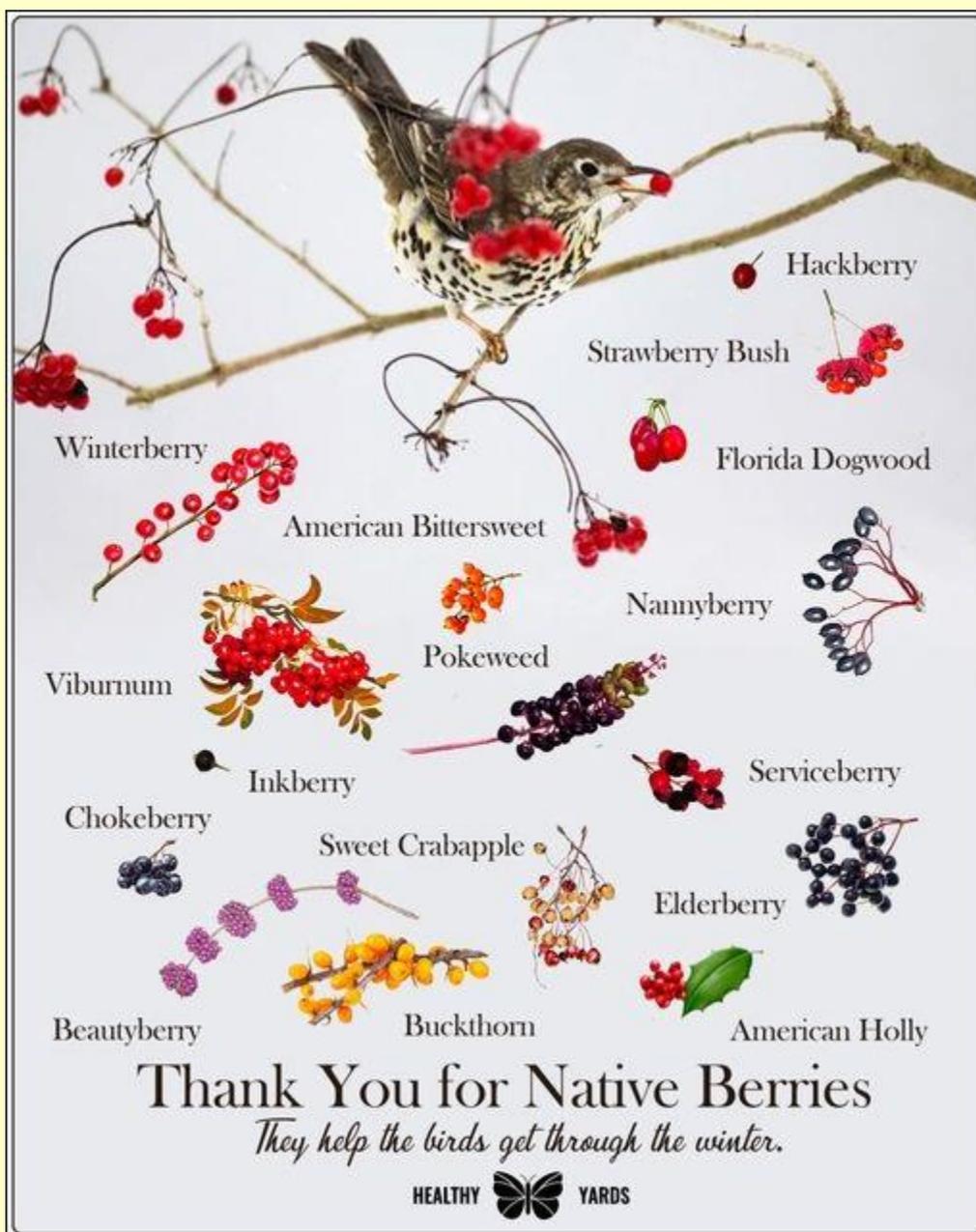
Bake for 20 minutes, until crust is golden. Serve with caramel for dipping.



JON BOULTON

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

I want to clarify what Sanding Sugar is and what it is used for: Sanding sugar is a large crystal sugar that's great for decorating because it won't dissolve with heat. It also creates a sparkly effect because of the large size of the crystals that reflect light. It's great for decorating treats like cookies, cakes, scones, muffins, and even candies. This coarse and often sparkling sugar helps to add a special crunch and extra flair to even the simplest of offerings. This makes sanding sugar an excellent addition to your holiday baking arsenal, because you can dress up your deserts as festively or as simply as you like.



MONTHLY WEED ALERT

Italian Arum, Ornamental Invader



The plant is 12" to 18" tall with arrow-head shape, variegated leaves that are 8" to 12" long. They emerge in the spring but die back in the summer. Pale, foul-smelling, hood-like flowers are produced in late May. Bright red berries formed in tight clusters develop in summer.



Do not let it go to seed. Wearing gloves, cut and bag all seed heads, and dispose of them in the garbage.

If you see this invader please contact:
www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org
or call 1-866-INVADER

Italian Arum is a non-native perennial that was introduced as an ornamental plant. It is a woodland species and prefers moist, well-shaded environments.



Italian Arum is toxic to humans and some animals. Handling of the plant can cause skin irritation and ingestion can cause swelling of the mouth, tongue and throat.



If anyone has an article for the newsletter, please, send it to me by the 3rd week of the month before the month of publication. Could use some help from MG's Tmaryso43@mchsi.com Thanks!

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

**For Those Born in September
Happy Birthday!**

Hazel, the Knower (Aug. 5 – Sept. 1)



When a person is born under the energy of the Hazel, he or she becomes highly intelligent, organized and excels in the classroom. Just like the Holly, this Celtic tree sign is naturally gifted when it comes to knowledge. They possess the ability to recite and recall information, which makes them appear as know-it-all to others. However, you can't blame the Hazel for being naturally smart. This clever sign from the Celtic tree horoscope pairs well with the Hawthorn and Rowan signs.

Vine, the Equalizer (Sept. 2 – Sept. 29)



The Vine is another shapeshifter of the Celtic astrology. This is due to the fact that people born under this sign are born within the autumnal equinox. This makes them unpredictable, contradictive, and often indecisive. They can see the good and bad in each story, which makes it hard for them to pick a side. However, they are always sure when it comes to their taste in food, wine, music and art – they have a soft spot for guilty pleasures. Vines have a thing for luxury and refinement. Willow and Hazel can suit their classic style.

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

Online Reporting Site Open

The Missouri Master Gardener online reporting site has new reporting system.

Your data has been transferred to the new reporting site. I have used the new site! Took me three tries but finally got from April 5 through April 12 reported. Now, I have the rest to do. Make sure you click +Add – a screen comes up for “Save” also delete, etc.

Good Luck!

Updates from Dr. Trinklein on education requirements:

Per Dr. David Trinklein, due to the pandemic, Master Gardener trainees will be given an extra year to complete their volunteer service requirements. Also, the 5-year requirement for advanced training has been suspended.

Please pass this on to the trainees and to those who are working on advanced training hours. David Trinklein
State Master Gardener Coordinator

Thanks! Dottie B.

NO VOLUNTEER HOURS NEEDED :

However, if you do have hours: Please enter your hours as you earn them. Hours must be entered at:

<https://report.missourimastergardener.com/> please remember you need to enter hours on a computer, not a tablet or a phone. Again, all hours must be entered on line. The paper forms are no longer used (sorry).

Additional Note From Bev Price:

all MGs are encouraged to continue logging in their hours to help prove to the legislature that Extension programs such as Master Gardeners are providing a valuable service to our state and should be continued. Master Gardeners give so much to Missouri and to their communities with a small state investment for administration, and we need to let them know!

Any emails that need to be distributed to ALL MG's should be sent to **CMMG Cole County Master Gardener** [<cmmg@missouri.edu>](mailto:cmmg@missouri.edu) – please don't call in messages

CMMG Official WEBSITE--<http://extension.missouri.edu/cole/cmmg.aspx>

Central Missouri Master Gardeners Friends of the Garden

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