Geranium maculatum L.

Information courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center https://www.wildflower.org/

Spotted Geranium, Wild Geranium, Cranesbill

Geraniaceae (Geranium Family)

Showy, pink, five-petaled flowers, occur at the top of leafy, 1-3 ft. stem. Lavender flowers are in loose clusters of 2-5 at the ends of branches above a pair of deeply 5-lobed leaves. In addition to its flowers, this perennial is well known for its 5- to 6-parted, deeply cut leaves. It colonizes by thick rhizomes but is not aggressive.

Plant Characteristics

**Duration:** Perennial  
**Habit:** Herb  
**Leaf Retention:** Semi-evergreen  
**Size Notes:** 1 to 2 feet high  
**Flower:** Flowers 1 to 1.5 inches across  
**Fruit:** 1 inch  
**Size Class:** 1-3 ft.

Bloom Information

**Bloom Color:** White, Pink, Purple  
**Bloom Time:** Mar, Apr, May, Jun  
**Bloom Notes:** Color ranges from pink to white to lavender. deadheading will prolong bloom.

Distribution

**USA:** AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VT, WI, WV

**Native Habitat:** Dry or moist woods; woodland edges; dappled meadows

Growing Conditions

**Water Use:** Medium  
**Light Requirement:** Part Shade, Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Moist - medium dry  
**Soil pH:** Acidic (pH<6.8)  
**Soil Description:** Rich, acid

Benefit

**Use Wildlife:** Seeds attract Mourning Doves, Bobwhite Quail, and White-tailed Deer  
**Attracts:** Birds  
**Deer Resistant:** No

Value to Beneficial Insects

**Special Value to Native Bees**  
**Special Value to Bumble Bees**

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Propagation

**Propagation Material:** Root Division, Seeds  
**Description:** Seeds may be sown outside in late fall or the following spring without any cold treatment. The species may also be propagated by rhizome division in either fall or early spring. The rhizomes often form right angles, simplifying division.  
**Seed Collection:** The fruiting structure begins to darken 3-4 weeks after the bloom period. Collect at this time and place in a paper bag, where they will split open and release small, dark-brown seeds. Store in sealed, refrigerated containers.  
**Seed Treatment:** No treatment necessary.