Pelargonium

- *Pelargonium x hortorum*
- Geraniaceae
- South Africa
- Most important potted annual
- Cutting or seed propagated

Pelargonium

- Seeded cultivars – fewer disease problems, greater shattering, more limited color range, fewer flower styles and longer crop time than cutting geraniums.

Pelargonium

- Day neutral – intensity x duration
- Cycoel hastens flower initiation in seed geraniums. Apply 2 weeks after germination; no response after 40 days
- Development increases from 50 to 76F
- Fastest development at 76F, development slows at 90F or higher
- 68/63F day/night

Pelargonium

- 350 fc, for 4-6 wks after germination
- For every 1% increase in light, 1% increase in growth
- 3500 – 5000 fc for finished crops

Pelargonium

- 100-150 ppm N until well rooted, then use 250 ppm N
- Media pH 5.6 - 6.0, use 6.0 – 6.4 if iron or manganese toxicity a problem

Pelargonium cuttings
**Propagation**
- Foliage should be constantly moist for first 3 days
- Root temp 68 F – first two weeks
- Fertilize after day 5 – 100-150 ppm
- Roots visible 7-9 days after sticking
- 13-15 days turn off mist

**Height control**
- Cycocel, 1500 ppm
- A-Rest, 100-200 ppm
- Bonzi, 5-15 ppm
- Sumagic, 1-5 ppm
- DIF
- Florel, 500 ppm used to increase branching and control height

**Pelargonium cuttings**

**Pelargonium**
- Relatively insect free
- Many diseases
  - Root rot
  - Botrytis
  - Bacterial leaf spots, esp. Xanthomonas
  - Raulstonia
  - Fungal leaf spots
  - Rust
- Culture indexed stock plants
Pelargonium

Postharvest

- Seed geraniums shatter, sensitive to ethylene
- STS prevents shattering but increases susceptibility to pythium
- Store plants at 41F