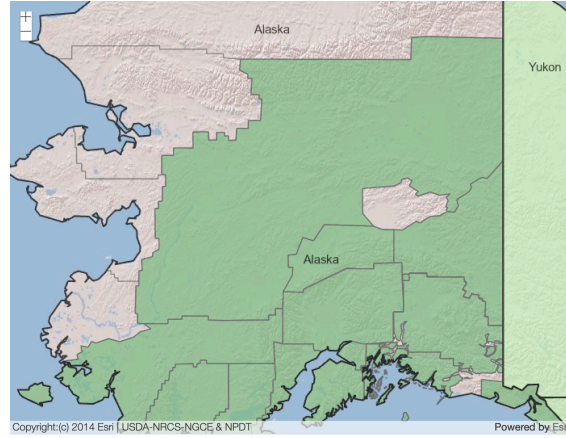
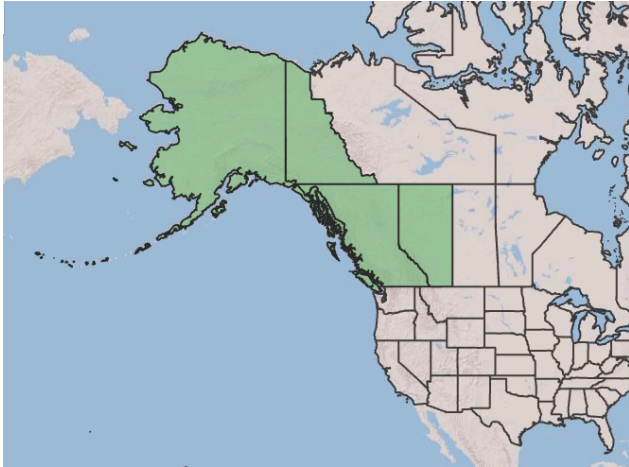


## Plant Propagation Protocol for Woolly Geranium

ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

URL: <https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/2026/GEER2.pdf>



Both

images taken from the USDA plant database. Second image is a closeup of Alaska.

<b>TAXONOMY</b>	
<b>Plant Family</b>	
Scientific Name	Geraniaceae
Common Name	Geranium
<b>Species Scientific Name</b>	
Scientific Name	<i>geranium erianthum</i> DC.
Varieties	NA
Sub-species	NA
Cultivar	NA
Common Synonym(s)	<i>Geranium pratense</i> L. var. <i>erianthum</i> (DC.) B. Boivin
Common Name(s)	Crane's Bill, Northern Geranium, soft flower, Neptune geranium
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	GEER2
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Geographical range	North America, Alaska, West and north Canada
Ecological distribution	Alaska FACU (Facultative upland: Usually occurs in non-wetlands, but occasionally in wetlands), Meadows, Open Forests(1)

Climate and elevation range	Low elevation to above the timberline. Moist, high humidity, high light availability. Full sun and partial shade are acceptable.
Local habitat and abundance	Open forests, meadows, avalanche tracks, roadsides and clearings, common and often abundant.
Plant strategy type / successional stage.	Early successional plant, weedy colonizer
Plant characteristics	Forb/Herb, Tender Perennial, thick scaly rhizome and woody stem base, hairy and leafy stems, 30-80 cm tall, blue, purple, and pink flowers with delicate thin petals. Live for Several years, and can be extended by dividing clumps every 3-5 years. Longevity is difficult to determine because of the practice of dividing plants to maintain vigor, which makes new “daughter” plants in the process. The leaves are autumn colored in reds and oranges compared to other geraniums which are greener.
<b>PROPAGATION DETAILS: FROM SEED</b>	
Ecotype	NA
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container (flats or 4-in pots or larger)
Stock Type	Containers with room to grow outwards over downwards.
Time to Grow	Anywhere from 3 days to 3 weeks to germinate. 3-6 months until out planting can be ready.
Target Specifications	20-80cm tall when ready for outplanting.

Propagule Collection Instructions	The fruit have 1 seed each, and each flower has 3 to 5 propagules. They will be launched out after they are ripe for dispersal, making collection difficult, so they need to be harvested when they are ripe but before they disperse. after the petals fall, the “cranesbill” structure lengthens and thickens, and the fruit segments turn brown as they dry out. seeds do not all ripen at once, so you can visit the same plant multiple times for more seeds. collect the entire fruit and put it into a paper bag, since the seed will separate itself from the “mericap”.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	10 stamens(male parts) (2 radical arrangements of 5), 5 carpels (female parts). Each fruit segment contains 1 seed.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Cold stratification for 1-2 months is an option, but not required. The seeds will separate themselves from the fruit cap, but if you want pure seed, then you will have to segregate the seeds and the caps after that.
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	They do not require winter protection, but cutting off stems before winter can eliminate fungal infection risk.
Establishment Phase Details	Prepare seeds in a flat container shallowly in the media. Space them 1cm apart with leveled and firm compost mixed with growing media. Put a thin layer of vermiculite on top. Cover the container with glass or plastic wrap until they germinate. Keep the soil moist and the temperature of the soil 50F.
Length of Establishment Phase	Seeds germinate sporadically, and might take up to 3 months to sprout, but will likely germinate in a few weeks.
Active Growth Phase	Place seedlings in good light but protected from scorching. Moist soil preferred. Individual plants should be put into 8-10cm diameter pots when the first true leaves develop.
Length of Active Growth Phase	Most plants should be ready to out plant by summer
Hardening Phase	Make sure the crown is at soil level, and as it hardens it should be more drought tolerant, so have more aerated soil mixtures when they’re moved to bigger or more permanent pots.

Length of Hardening Phase	6 months to get to an outplanting size. They do not need to be wintered. (5)
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	NA
Length of Storage	NA
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Plant container grown nursery plants in spring. They flower after 3-5 years of growth, in late April or May, and the flowers are blueish-purple. If they are ready to plant in Autumn, keep them in a cold greenhouse or cold sheltered area until Spring.
Other Comments	They take 3-5 years to be mature enough to flower, but they can be out planted before that. There may be variable progeny and species of geraniums can cross pollinate and make unviable seeds.
<b>PROPAGATION DETAILS: VEGETATIVE</b>	
Ecotype	NA
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Vegetative
Product Type	Bareroot, cuttings/divisions, .5 litre pots
Stock Type	0.5 liter container plants so they have time to establish
Time to Grow	After division, they can be immediately planted if they have enough roots. If not, the timing depends on how long it takes to establish themselves in the containers alone to increase chance of survival.
Target Specifications	20-80cm tall, enough roots to support itself outdoors
Propagule Collection Instructions	Division from plants that are large enough to split into multiple. Start divisions in spring so individuals have enough time to root in the new location they are placed. Dig up a large plant keeping much of the soil on the roots and divide them with a sharp clean shovel, two forks, or a knife with gloves. Each piece should have some rootstock and stem, a piece of rhizome, and a tuft of leaves.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	The number of individual plants depends on the size of the original plant. They will be already mature if taken from a mature plant, and can flower if they have the resources to do so. (3)

Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	NA
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Compost or loamy-compost media in 0.5 liter pots
Establishment Phase Details	Not mentioned in sources. Likely a few months considering the establishment phase of germinating seeds is only 3 months.
Length of Establishment Phase	NA
Active Growth Phase	moist but not flooded soil, not as much moisture as seeds might need since they are already germinated.
Length of Active Growth Phase	2-3 months
Hardening Phase	NA
Length of Hardening Phase	NA
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	They can be planted as soon as they've established in their pots, need sunlight but not to be burned. 50F at least
Length of Storage	Not mentioned
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Divide and replant plants in autumn or spring, but not winter or the hottest parts of summer to increase the survival likelihood. Spring is better, so they have more time to grow roots before winter. Cut down their leaves to prevent moisture lost from respiration, but leave a few for photosynthesis.
Other Comments	This plant has "geranium" in the scientific name, but when looking for "geraniums" online, it's much easier to find a different group species called geranium, that has the genus name "Pelargonium". Look up "hardy geranium" or "cranesbill" for better results.
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>	
References	See Below
Other Sources Consulted	See Below
Protocol Author	Catalina Hagen
Date Protocol Created or Updated	04/27/2026

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