

## TAKING CUTTINGS FROM GERANIUM PLANTS

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It is assumed that you will take cuttings only from the healthiest, most vigorous plants.

Pathologists suggest that cuttings be broken from the plant. Cutting with a knife may spread disease. This procedure may seem awkward, but if the cuttings snap cleanly, this is the procedure to use. If you prefer to cut, two knives are better than one. Use one knife per plant, then soak it using the clean knife on the other. A few seconds of soaking in LF-10 1:50, Formaldehyde 1:50, or 70-95% alcohol will keep systemic disease spread to a minimum. This procedure does not take much more time.

Soft cuttings which snap sharply when broken root better than those that are soft and weak. A cutting 4-6 inches long is ideal for late cuttings while shorter cuttings may be taken for earlier propagation dates.

After cuttings are removed from the stock plants, dust or spray with a fungicide to keep disease at a minimum.

Lower greenhouse temperatures due to the energy crisis may pose timing problems this year and plant production should be geared to this. Bulletin 68-55, A Cultural Guide for Commercial Geraniums, may assist you in adjusting time schedules. This is available from your Extension agent.