

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Geranium maculatum* – Wild Geranium**

COMMON NAME: Wild geranium, Cranesbill, Spotted Cranesbill

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Geranium maculatum* – this comes from the Greek word *geranos* for "crane", referring to the beak-like fruit thought to resemble the bill of a crane, and *maculatum* meaning "spotted" for the appearance of the leaves.

FLOWER: pink to purple, 1 to 1 ½ inch wide, arranged in a loose stalked cluster of a few to several flowers.

BLOOMING PERIOD: April to June

SIZE: 1 to 2 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Erect perennial with tough fibrous roots. Spreads easily.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: This is a common woodland plant and appears on prairies and in open woods. It flowers best in full sun (before the overstory trees leaf out), but tolerates light shade. It also tolerates and survives some disturbance.

NATURAL RANGE: Maine and Ontario west to Manitoba, south to Georgia and Alabama. It is found in all of Wisconsin except for the Lake Superior counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: One of the easiest woodland plants to grow and will form large clumps. It blooms later than many of the spring woodland flowers. The leaves are deeply cut and dark green. Its seed dispersal is the origin of the name "cranesbill".

SUGGESTED CARE: Nothing much!!

COMPANION PLANTS: In oak woods with wood phlox, trillium and bedstraw.