Zonal Geranium Care and Pet Safety Checklist

FitInFlow.space · Pelargonium × hortorum · Based on RHS, NC State, Wisconsin and Penn State Extension, and ASPCA guidance. Updated October 2026.

1. Seasonal care calendar

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
[ ] Pot up, pinch tips [ ] Balanced feed every 10-14 days [ ] Plant out after last frost	[ ] 6+ hours direct sun [ ] High-potassium feed every 2 weeks [ ] Deadhead whole flower stalks	[ ] Take cuttings in late summer [ ] Check for pests [ ] Bring in before first frost	[ ] Cool, bright, frost-free [ ] Water sparingly [ ] Feed monthly or not at all

My first frost date: _____ Reminder set one week earlier: [ ]

2. Three ways to overwinter

Method	How	Conditions
Houseplant	Cut back by 1/3 to 1/2, water, sunny window	About 60-65°F, away from heat vents
Cuttings	Root 3-4 in tips in a light mix; pot up after about 6 weeks	Bright light, not direct sun; airy, not sealed in plastic
Dormant bare-root	Shake off soil; hang upside down or open paper bag	Cool and dry, 45-55°F. Prune to 1/3 and pot up in March.

3. Problem solver

You see	Likely cause	Fix
Leggy stems, few flowers	Too little light	More sun; cut back; pinch tips
Fuzzy grey mold	Grey mold (Botrytis)	Remove affected parts; improve airflow
Corky bumps under leaves	Edema (too much water, cool and cloudy)	Water less; ventilate
Collapse, rotten stem base	Overwatering or vine weevil	Check roots; fresh dry compost
Webbing, speckled leaves	Spider mites	Rinse; isolate; treat if severe
Mottled, distorted leaves	Virus	Discard plant; clean tools

4. Pet safety

Toxic to dogs, cats and horses (ASPCA). Toxic compounds: geraniol and linalool, mainly in leaves. Cats are most sensitive. Signs: vomiting, loss of appetite, depression, skin irritation; with large amounts, wobbliness or weakness.	**If a pet chews one:** remove plant bits from the mouth, note how much and when, then call your vet or ASPCA Animal Poison Control: **(888) 426-4435** (fee may apply). Do not induce vomiting unless a vet says so. **Child ate some?** Poison Control: **1-800-222-1222**.

Zonal geraniums are ornamental plants with no established medicinal use. Do not eat them or make remedies from them. For information only; not medical or veterinary advice.