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Pelargonium graveolens

[Synonyms : *Pelargonium intermedium*, *Pelargonium terebinthaceum*]

ROSE GERANIUM is a subshrub. Native to South Africa it has rose scented leaves and small pale pink flowers with two purple spots.

It is also known as *Duftgeranium* (German), Fragrant-leaved geranium, Geranium (English, German), Old fashioned rose, Old fashioned rose geranium, *Palsamipelargoni* (Finnish), *Rosengeranie* (German), *Rosengeranium* (Swedish), Rose pelargonium, and Sweet-scented geranium; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of preference.

Graveolens is derived from Latin *gravis* (heavy, weighty) and *oleo* (to emit an odour, smell) components meaning ‘strong-smelling or heavily-scented’.

This species particularly is a parent of many commercially available hybrids.

The essence is used by the perfumery industry and in the manufacture of soaps by the toiletry industry.

It is the birthday flower for 4th March.