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Pelargonium peltatum

[Synonyms : *Geranium peltatum*, *Pelargonium lateripes*]

IVY-LEAVED PELARGONIUM is an evergreen perennial. Native to South Africa it has aromatic leaves and small violet-veined, deep pink to white flowers.

It is also known as Hanging geranium, Ivy geranium, Ivy leaf geranium, Ivy-leaved geranium, and Ivy vine pelargonium; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of bridal favour, and ‘I engage you for the next dance’.

This is a parent of many cultivated varieties.

Peltatum is derived from Greek *pelto-* (small round shield, target) component meaning ‘shield-shaped’ with reference to the stalk’s position (towards the centre of the leaf not at the leaf edge).

Introduced to the Netherlands in about 1700 ivy-leaved pelargonium is believed to have reached Britain the following year.