## Blushing Turtle Cranesbill

***Geranium sanguineum 'Blushing Turtle'***



*Blushing Turtle Cranesbill flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Bloody Cranesbill

**Description:**

Perfect as a groundcover, this low mounded variety has small, deeply lobed leaves that turn crimson red in the fall; bathed in beautiful pink saucer-shaped blooms with deeper pink veins; deadhead spent flowers for reblooming later in the season



*Blushing Turtle Cranesbill in bloom*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Blushing Turtle Cranesbill has masses of beautiful pink flowers with hot pink veins at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its deeply cut lobed palmate leaves are dark green in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous crimson in the fall.

**Landscape Attributes**

Blushing Turtle Cranesbill is a dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blushing Turtle Cranesbill is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Blushing Turtle Cranesbill will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 30 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Blushing Turtle Cranesbill is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.