

GET TO KNOW YOUR GERANIUMS

Geraniums have interesting shaped leaves. The leaf edges are often dissected, can be hand shaped and have a jagged or broken outline. The flowers are usually pink although Meadow Crane's-bill is a distinct blue or purple in colour. Some geraniums have a strong smell!



Did you know many varieties of geranium have **scented leaves**?



Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense*

A hairy, plant with violet-blue to sky-blue, flowers. In autumn its leaves turn a deep red. Can you see the nectar guides on the petals to lure pollinators like bees in? It grows in meadows but you will mainly see this on roadsides due to changes in farming practices.
Spot it June-September.

Some common features of Geraniums

- Leaves are hand-shaped or "palmate"
- Apart from shining cranes-bill, all members of the family are quite hairy!
- Flowers have five petals

Herb-robert

Geranium robertianum

Another hairy but pretty plant which often has a strong smell. The stem and leaves are often reddish and the flowers bright pink. Who is Robert? There are various suggestions for who 'Robert' might be, but the true meaning of this plant's name is a mystery! Favours shady places.
Spot it May-September.



(c) Geranium lucidum by Proche, Wikimedia Commons



Shining Crane's-bill *Geranium lucidum*

This hairless wild plant has shiny, glossy, quite reddish leaves, with a rounded outline (the name of this plant refers to the glossy leaves rather than petals). The delicate flowers are pale pink. Also likes shady places like hedge-banks.

Did you know?

The name cranesbill comes from its distinctive long, straight, pointed "beak" shaped seed cases — more visible on species such as bloody cranesbill.