

BOTANICAL NAME:  
**Pelargonium x hortorum**

COMMON NAMES:  
**Common Geranium,  
Garden Geranium**

FAMILY: Geraniaceae

ORIGIN: South Africa



Photo © 2006 Carolyn Martus

Reason for listing as  
potentially invasive species:

*Pelargonium x hortorum* grows easily from seed; in mild climates it will grow in open areas, and needs little water once established.<sup>1</sup> When planted in gardens adjacent to open space it appears to spread via seed.<sup>2</sup> Santa Cruz Island native plant restoration project reports to have removed 765 plants between 11/03 – 5/04 from natural lands.<sup>3</sup> Because of its demonstrated ability to invade nearby natural areas, use caution when landscaping with this plant.

Methods of invading natural  
areas:

Humans have dispersed this plant globally for landscaping and cultivation. Seeds then travel over shorter distances from initial plantings through gravity.

Habitat types it invades:

wetlands, riparian, oak woodland

Where invasive in Southern  
California:

Santa Catalina Island, Plaisted Creek Ecological Reserve, Switzer canyon, Chocolate Canyon<sup>2</sup>

Potentially invasive varieties  
include:

all members of the species *Pelargonium x hortorum*

Varieties not known to be  
invasive:

Alternative plants to  
consider:

California native species:  
and cultivars:

*Penstemon* spp.  
*Galvezia speciosa*  
*Heuchera* spp.

Penstemon species  
Snapdragon  
Coral Bells species

Non-native species:

*Lavandula* spp.

Lavender species

<sup>1</sup> *Sunset Western Garden Book*, 2001 edition, p. 509.

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria as accessed on the World Wide Web April 25th, 2007. [www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/](http://www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/)

<sup>3</sup> Cal-IPC News, Summer 2004, p.4. Accessed on the World Wide Web on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at [http://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/news/pdf/cal-ipc\\_news5513.pdf](http://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/news/pdf/cal-ipc_news5513.pdf)