



# HOMESTEAD GARDENS

## Plant FINDER

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### Midnight Reiter Cranesbill

*Geranium pratense 'Midnight Reiter'*

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Meadow Cranesbill

#### Ornamental Features

Midnight Reiter Cranesbill has masses of beautiful plum purple flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive deeply cut lobed palmate leaves remain deep purple in color throughout the season. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

#### Landscape Attributes

Midnight Reiter Cranesbill is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Midnight Reiter Cranesbill is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Midnight Reiter Cranesbill foliage*  
Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries



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### **Planting & Growing**

Midnight Reiter Cranesbill will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This plant should be grown in a location that is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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.

Midnight Reiter Cranesbill is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.