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Scented Geraniums

Today on Gardening in a Minute: scented geraniums.

Many people enjoy growing plants that produce sweet-smelling flowers. But you shouldn't overlook plants with fragrant foliage.

Scented geraniums have long been favored for their fragrant leaves, which release aromatic oils when rubbed or crushed. They can smell like mint, rose, lemon, cinnamon, or even chocolate!

Outside of Florida, scented geraniums are usually grown as houseplants. Here they can be grown outdoors in containers, though they may struggle in summer's heat and will need to be protected from frost.

In Victorian times, people would float the leaves in small bowls of water as a way to cleanse their hands before eating, earning the plants the name "fingerbowl geraniums."

The leaves are also edible and can be used to flavor sugars, jellies, or baked goods.

For more information about scented geraniums, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.