

Geum - Care Guide

Caring For Geum

Avens

These are attractive clump forming perennials which are just as easy to grow and just as attractive as most herbaceous geraniums. The botanical interpretation and origin of the two key species from which many of the best known Geum varieties are grown today is however complex and confusing. *G. chiloense* originates in Chile and *G. coccineum* in Greece and the Adriatic coast. Hybrids of *G. chiloense* have more branched flowering stems than those of *G. coccineum* but this is where the naming gets confusing. *G. coccineum* is also known as *G. x borisii* of gardens and *G. chiloense* is also a synonym of *G. coccineum* of gardens. In other words the botanists have no real certainty as to the exact origins of most Geum hybrids so let us not dwell on the confusion and stick to the cultivation of Geum which is easy!

Geum are fully hardy and grow best in fertile well drained soil in full sun. They make excellent border plants and are commonly used to edge or front a border. Avoid waterlogged soil which can cause basal rot in winter. Geum flower continuously through summer and on into autumn but they will flower even better if they are regularly dead headed.

G. 'Lady Stratheden' and *G. 'Mrs J Bradshaw'* will come true from seed but most Geum readily hybridise with themselves in the garden. A better method of propagation is to lift and divide the clumps either as they approach dormancy in late autumn or in early spring.



Geum 'Lady Stratheden'



Geum 'Lady Stratheden'



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Geum 'Borisii'



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Geum 'Lemon Drops'



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Geum 'Flames of Passion'



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Geum coccineum 'Eos'



Geum coccineum 'Eos'



Geum 'Scarlet Tempest'

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