

# SAXIFLORA

PLATE 12

**Erodium chamaedryoides var. roseum**  
(Geraniaceae)

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*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum*

## *Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum*

*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* blooms from the first warm days in the spring until frost. Given full sun, deep mellow soil and enough moisture, it grows rapidly and blossoms freely; but the sharp winter of our northern climate is too much for the nearly evergreen leaves, unless properly protected with a gravel mulch, marsh hay and pine branches for shade. Grown under conifers which shelter them in winter, the plants prove more or less hardy, but their bloom is not so free.

They seem to do equally well in neutral or even slightly acid soil, so long as it is a little moist, with a deep root run. They must never dry out, but drainage is essential.

My first plants were happily placed on a shelf of rock with deep root space, under a young plant of *Taxus brevifolia*. They remained there for three or four winters, quite unprotected by any mulch. The *Taxus*, however, grew so large that the little family had to be moved elsewhere, and they have since spent two years under a *Retinospora* (*Chamaecyparis*) *obtusata* in a similar situation.

These little alpine plants are so easily propagated that one never need worry about losing them altogether. One or two plants, dug from a more open situation, potted and placed in a coldframe in the spring, may be pulled apart into a dozen plantlets as easily as a primrose after flowering. Their short runners root like strawberries, and quantities of youngsters may be added to the collection.

The dark green foliage is so neat and clean, the bright pink blossoms so unfailing, that any one not having a stand of this *Erodium* is missing something very choice.

*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* is an alpine found in the Balearic Islands. It is stemless and two or more inches tall. The leaves are numerous, long stalked, slightly hairy, round-ovate, crenulated and cordate, with apex rounded. The blossoms, pure rose, are numerous, growing singly, about two or three inches high. Sepals are ovate-spatulate; petals, five in number, obovate and veined a darker rose. The pistil is minute.

The type, *Erodium chamaedryoides*, is also found in Corsica; but it is less showy, smaller, has white flowers, and fewer hairs on the leaf-stems. Both were originally called *Erodium Reichardi*, but each stays true to type to such an extent, one doubts Clarence Elliott's statement that *E. chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* is a hybrid.

HENRIETTA STOUT.  
(MRS. CHARLES H. STOUT)

*E. Reichardi* var. *roseum* Hort.  
*E. hybridum* var. *roseum* Hort.  
*E. chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* Hort.