

Dianthus

Dianthus spp.



Sun/shade

4''- 1' x 1'-4'

Mostly evergreen

Pink, white, rose, purple or bi-colored blooms, early spring - early summer

Very cold hardy

Culture: most varieties prefer morning sun, afternoon filtered shade and moderate moisture. Dianthus likes well drained, neutral to alkaline soils. To prevent disease, provide good air circulation and do not overwater or use excessive mulch. These plants are very cold hardy and are best planted in fall.

Growth Habit: The dense foliage is mostly evergreen, grassy or mat forming, green or gray depending on variety. Some forms are biennial. Dianthus may be short-lived.

Bloom: These cool season bloomers come in fragrant pink, white, rose or combination-colored flowers. Abundant flowers rise on stems above foliage. Deadhead after flowering.

Notes: These old-fashioned garden plants are often mislabeled, but generally single flowered varieties are known as pinks, cluster flower varieties are called sweet Williams, hardy double forms are known as carnations. 'Baths Pink', a cultivar of *D. gratianopolitanus*, the perennials known as cheddar pinks, will tolerate full sun, heat and humidity. It has blue-tinged foliage and single pink blooms with red eyes.