

## CARNATION PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Carnation
- Scientific name: *Dianthus spp.*
- Name derives from the Greek words for 'god' and 'flower'
- Perennial herb native to Europe and Asia
- Opposite, linear, grey-green leaves
- Pale to dark pink flowers with five petals
- Most varieties range from 10-20" in height

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Requires 4–5 hours of sun daily
- Thrives in fertile, well-drained, slightly alkaline media
- Water once weekly; overwatering will turn foliage yellow
- Plants require good air circulation about the stem; do not mulch
- Feed every 6–8 weeks with a 20-10-20, 200 ppm nitrogen liquid fertilizer

### PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated from seed or by cuttings, layering, or division
- Seeds can be sown in spring or early summer directly into the garden
- Space seeds or seedlings 10–12" apart

- Sow seeds 1/8 inch deep in light well-drained media; keep media moist until plants are sprouted and growing
- Seeds sown directly into the garden will not bloom in the first year
- Seeds can be sown indoors 6–8 weeks before the last frost for spring planting and first-year blooms
- When sowing indoors, bottom heat hastens germination
- Propagation by division will rejuvenate old clumps as well as providing a new plant
- When transplanting, do not bury the crown or the plant will die

### DISORDERS

- Bacterial leaf spot (*Pseudomonas androponis*)
  - Leaves develop light gray spots and then turn brown
  - Remove infected plants
- Root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)
  - Stems decay and wilt
  - Provide good aeration and drainage
  - Remove infected plants and avoid infected soil
- *Fusarium* wilt
  - Causes yellowing and stunting of new growth
  - Remove infected plants

## CONSUMER CARE

- Remove spent blooms to prolong the blooming period
- After all flowers have died, cut stems back to ground level
- Can be grown in containers
- Very popular in a wide variety of floral arrangements

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Dianthus*
  - 'First Love': white to pink flowers
  - 'Rosish One': dark rose flowers
  - 'Siskin Clock': magenta flowers with white eyes
  - 'Arctic Star': double white flowers
  - 'Brilliant Star': double white flowers with magenta centers
  - 'Eastern Star': deep pink blooms
  - 'Pixie Star': bright pink petals
  - 'Spangled Star': red petals with pale pink edges
- *Dianthus barbatus*
  - 'Indian Carpet Mix': bright flowers
- *Dianthus deltoides*
  - 'Arctic Fire': white with red eye
  - 'Brilliant': crimson flowers, mat forming
- *Dianthus gratianopolitanus*
  - 'Bath's Pink': light pink with maroon eye

- 'Bewitched': light pink with magenta ring
- 'Firewitch': bright magenta flowers
- 'Tiny Rubies': tiny, double, pink flowers

## References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianthus>

<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/dianthus.html>

<http://www.gardenersnet.com/flower/dianthus.htm>

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/gardening/garden/01700340.shtml>

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