

DIANTHUS 'BATH'S PINK'

Dianthus 'Bath's Pink'



Characteristics

- Type: Perennial
- Zone: 3 to 9
- Height: 0.75 to 1.00 feet
- Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
- Bloom Time: May to July
- Bloom Description: Pink
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Flower: Showy, Fragrant, Good Cut
- Tolerate: Deer

Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Prefers fertile, slightly alkaline, loose, somewhat gritty loams with good drainage. Add lime to acidic soils to adjust the soil pH. Best grown with regular and consistent moisture during the growing season. Plants may die out in the center, however, if drainage is not superior. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. Consider shearing plants back after main flush of bloom in order to tidy the planting and to promote additional bloom in late summer or early fall. Plants may be propagated by division in early spring every 3-4 years. 'Bath's Pink' tolerates heat and humidity (as well as some drought) better than most other dianthus.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Dianthus is a genus of over 300 species from Europe and north Asia to Japan. One species is native to North America. Most are evergreen and can be low-growing subshrubs, annuals, biennials or perennials. They are grown for their attractive, often fragrant, flowers. Many hybrids, often of complex parentage, have been made resulting in tens of thousands of cultivars. Genus name comes from the Greek words *dios* meaning divine and *anthos* meaning flower. The common name of pink for plants in the genus *Dianthus* is in probable reference to the fringed flower petal margins (they appear to have been cut with pinking shears) and not to flower color. 'Bath's Pink' is a mat-forming dianthus (also commonly called cheddar pinks) that produces numerous, fringed and fragrant, star-like, soft pink, 1" diameter flowers singly atop wiry stems (to 10" tall) arising from mounds of grassy, blue-green, linear foliage. Blooms in late spring with some intermittent repeat bloom in summer.

Problems

Crown rot may occur in wet, poorly-drained conditions.

Garden Uses

Provides masses of color and good contrast for the rock garden or small border front. Good edging plant. Dense mats may be grown together to form an interesting ground cover. May also be grown on difficult sites such as stone walls.