

# *Dianthus x* 'Princess Series' Princess Dianthus, Princess Pinks<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Terry Delvalle<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

These low growing herbaceous plants are used in the landscape primarily for their beautiful and slightly fragrant flowers. The bushy plants have leaves that are thick, stiff, and linear. *Dianthus* bear carnation-like flowers that have toothed petals. These colorful flowers occur in singles, semi-doubles and doubles. Flowers can be either one color or a variegated mix of two. They are best in Florida landscapes in the fall, winter, and spring months. Further north, they are used during the spring, summer and fall seasons. There are lavender, pink, purple, red, salmon, and white colored species of *Dianthus*. The abundant flowers can be borne singly or in inflorescences, but all occur terminally.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Dianthus x* 'Princess Series'

**Pronunciation:** dye-ANTH-us

**Common name(s):** princess dianthus, princess pinks

**Family:** *Caryophyllaceae*

**Plant type:** annual

**USDA hardiness zones:** all zones (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 7:** Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug

**Planting month for zone 8:** Nov; Dec; Jan; Feb; Mar

**Planting month for zone 9:** Feb; Nov; Dec

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** Nov; Dec

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** attracts butterflies; border; edging

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

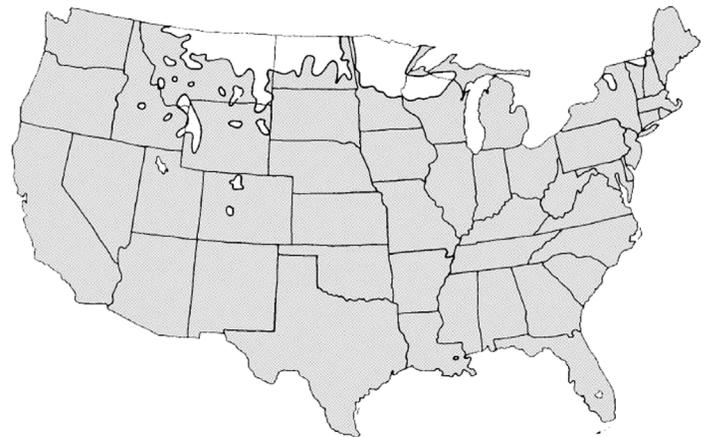


Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** .5 to 1 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

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**Leaf shape:** oblong  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** not applicable  
**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** not applicable  
**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

## Flower

**Flower color:** red; lavender; pink; purple; salmon; white  
**Flower characteristic:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** no fruit  
**Fruit length:** no fruit  
**Fruit cover:** no fruit  
**Fruit color:** not applicable  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 6 to 12 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** not applicable  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## Use and Management

*Dianthus* species may be used in the landscape as a border or edge. They are lovely when placed in containers and can be used in flower arrangements. They make great bedding plants massed together.

*Dianthus* species require a full sun to partial shade location in the landscape. They prefer improved, well-drained soils of medium fertility and are adapted to temperate climates.

Other series include 'Carpet', 'Charms', 'Parfait', 'Rosemarre', and 'Telstar'.

Propagate these species by seed. Some may be propagated by cuttings.

## Pests and Diseases

These plants are subject to attack from various insects and fungal diseases. Bacterial wilt, bacterial spot, alternaria, botrytis, fusarium, pythium, rhizoctonia, aphids, mites, and cutworms are problems for *Dianthus* species.