**Dianthus x ‘Princess Series’ Princess Dianthus, Princess Pinks**

Edward F. Gilman and Terry Delvalle

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**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

**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.


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.