

Cultural Information – Dianthus
(dy-AN-thus)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, a southern exposure.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 32° as a potted plant. It is hardy to Zone 5 as a garden plant or Zone 4 with protection.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	As a potted plant, bring the soil to a state of visual dryness between waterings. When watering, thoroughly saturate soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system. As a garden plant, maintain even moisture, although they will tolerate periods of dryness.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	They are light feeders. Fertilize with ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every two weeks when in active growth. Discontinue in fall and winter. As a garden plant, they need little if any fertilizer.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Prune back flower stems once the flowering cycle has finished. As they have creeping stems, they can be pruned to maintain size; however, this needs to be done right after flowering to not disrupt the following blooming cycle.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Dianthus have little problems with insects and disease.
<u>Comments</u>	Dianthus need a sunny, well-drained spot that is low in plant nutrients. They are often used in rock gardens where the winter rest is kept out of wet soils. As a potted plant, they prefer a little dryness and cool winter temperatures.