

Dianthus

Dianthus spp.

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

1–2 ft

DEER

Resistant

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

The most common source of confusion with dianthus is that gardeners are surprised when their plant dies over winter, or never comes back in year two. Know what you have: Sweet William (*D. barbatus*) is a biennial or short-lived perennial that is often used as an annual. China pinks (*D. chinensis*) are true annuals. Cheddar pinks (*D. gratianopolitanus*) are perennials that will return for years. These are not interchangeable in practice.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/dianthus-care/>