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. Pinks 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
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
**Figure 1.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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  
**Drought tolerance:** 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.