



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Dianthus x 'Telstar Series'*¹

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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. Pinks bear carnation-like flowers that have toothed petals. These colorful flowers occur in singles, semi-doubles and doubles. Each flower has a delicate fringe or white along the edge. 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 'Telstar Series'*
Pronunciation: dye-ANTH-us
Common name(s): Telstar *Dianthus*, Telstar 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

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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

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

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance:

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

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, Princess and Rosemarre.

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.