



HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Plant FINDER

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German Catchfly

Lychnis viscaria

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Campion

Description:

Native to Europe, this small grassy-like tufted-mound perennial produces clusters of rosy-pink blooms; its upright habit makes this plant a spectacular addition for any rock or scree garden

Ornamental Features

German Catchfly has masses of beautiful spikes of pink star-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its ferny leaves remain light green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

German Catchfly is an open herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

German Catchfly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



German Catchfly flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

German Catchfly will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.