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carnation



Photos courtesy of HilverdaKooij B.V.

Dianthus caryophyllus 'Antigua'
Carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink

BOTANICAL NAME

Dianthus caryophyllus
(dy-AN-thus ka-ree-OFF-i-lus)

COMMON NAMES

Carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink

DESCRIPTION

Standard carnations' textural blossoms grow up to 3 inches in diameter. Miniature, or spray, carnations' blossoms are usually 1 inch to 2 inches across. Most cultivars have a mildly spicy aroma.

COLORS

These versatile flowers are available in many colors including hues of white, pink, red, salmon, orange, yellow, green and violet as well as bicolors.

VASE LIFE

Carnations will last from seven to 21 days, depending on variety and the care and handling they receive.

AVAILABILITY

Carnations are available year-round.

varieties

Hundreds of varieties are available. The photos on this page are of new varieties introduced by carnation breeder HilverdaKooij B.V. of Aalsmeer, Holland.

vase-life extenders

REFRIGERATION Store these flowers in a floral cooler at 33 F to 35 F and at a humidity level between 90 percent to 95 percent. Open flowers can be stored for two to four weeks, and bud-harvested flowers can be stored for up to five weeks.

WATER Check the water level daily, and add warm flower-food solution as needed. It is beneficial to recut the stems every three to four days to ensure effective water uptake.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY Carnations are extremely sensitive to ethylene gas, which causes petal wilting. Be sure your flowers have been treated at the grower level or during transportation with an anti-ethylene product.

spray carnations



D. caryophyllus nana 'Pretty Tessino'
Spray carnation, Modern pink



D. caryophyllus nana 'Mystery Dark'
Spray carnation, Modern pink

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The name "carnation" is from the Latin "carnis," meaning "flesh," alluding to the pale pink color of some varieties. In Greek, "dianthus" means "flower of Jove."

FAMILY Carnations are members of the *Caryophyllaceae* (pink) family. Their close relatives include baby's breath (*Gypsophila*), *Saponaria* (soapwort), *Lychnis* and *Silene* (campion and catchfly).

HOME SWEET HOME Carnations are native to cool, mountainous regions from southern Europe to India.

Some information provided by:
The British National Carnation Society
carnations.org.uk
Chain of Life Network®, www.chainoflifenetWORK.org
Society of American Florists'
Flower & Plant Care manual

Reach "Cut Flower of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at sbfloral@aol.com or (415) 239-3140.

standard carnations



D. caryophyllus 'Farida'
Carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink



D. caryophyllus 'Grand Slam'
Carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink



D. caryophyllus 'Lion King'
Carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink
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