

Miniature carnation

BOTANICAL NAME

Dianthus caryophyllus nana

(dy-AN-thus ka-ree-AHF-i-lus non-uh)

COMMON NAMES

Miniature carnation, Spray carnation, Clove pink, Gilliflower, Pink

DESCRIPTION

Miniature, or spray, carnations have clusters of five to six flowers per stem. The small flowers are usually 1 inch to 2 inches across. Some cultivars have a clovelike scent. Most are double forms with many ruffled petals.

COLORS

Carnations are available in hues of white, pink, red, fuchsia, salmon, orange, yellow, light green, lavender and purple. There also are flecked varieties and bicolors.

CONSUMER LIFE

Carnations are popular as potted plants because of their long blooming season. With proper care and favorable conditions, each bloom cycle can last several weeks, and the plants can bloom several times a year.

varieties

Hundreds of varieties are available. Familiar cultivars include the rose-pink 'Elegance', with white edges; the violet 'Exquisite', with white edges; the scarlet 'Rony'; and the white 'Tibet'.

availability

Miniature carnations are available year-round.

in-store and consumer care

LIGHT Bright, indirect light is best for plants displayed indoors. Full sun is tolerated outdoors.

WATER Keep the soil moist at all times.



D. CARYOPHYLLUS NANA
'GARDEN SPICE PINK'



D. CARYOPHYLLUS NANA
'LILLIPOT PURPLE'

quality checklist

BLOOMS Remove faded florets on the stem. Don't accept plants that show signs of wilt, rot, mold or yellowing.

PESTS Carnation plants can suffer from leaf spot and root rot, but few pests are serious problems.

Avoid irregular watering, overhead watering and standing water on the foliage and flowers.

TEMPERATURE Cool areas (60 F to 70 F) are best for displaying these plants, but do not display them below 55 F.

HUMIDITY Carnation plants thrive in moderate humidity.

SOIL Carnation plants do best in fertile, moist, well-drained soil. The soil pH should be close to neutral or slightly alkaline for best results.

GROOMING Cut carnation plants back



DIANTHUS CARYOPHYLLUS NANA
'CAN CAN SCARLET'

challenge

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY Carnations are extremely sensitive to ethylene gas. Make sure your carnations have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower level or during transportation.



D. CARYOPHYLLUS NANA
'GARDEN SPICE PEARL WHITE'



D. CARYOPHYLLUS NANA
'GARDEN SPICE MARBLE'

when they have finished flowering to remove straggly branches and faded flowers and to keep the plants compact and neat. Plants can be disbudded during development to produce a single large flower on each stem. **sfr**

Some information provided by:
The Chain of Life Network®, www.chainoflifenetowork.org
Repetto Nurseries, Half Moon Bay, Calif.
The Society of American Florists, www.safnow.org

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

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