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## First Love Pinks

***Dianthus 'First Love'***



*First Love Pinks flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Border Pinks, Cheddar Pinks

**Description:**

A stunning variety where the flowers emerge white, turn to pink and finally develop to lavender-rose when mature; blanketing mounds of silvery-blue foliage throughout summer months; deadhead to encourage blooms; perfect in borders, beds and containers



*First Love Pinks flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

First Love Pinks is smothered in stunning fragrant white frilly flowers with rose overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive narrow leaves remain silvery blue in colour throughout the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

First Love Pinks is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and 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.

First Love Pinks is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

First Love Pinks will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

First Love Pinks is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.