



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

TALL SPECIES PINKS CARE

LIGHT

Carthusian pink (*Dianthus carthusianorum*) and blood pink (*Dianthus cruentus*) need a sunny, open position. Their slender upright flower stems rise above low, grass-like foliage. Use them among airy border plants or in a gravel garden, allowing light to reach the basal clump.

WATER

Water new plants deeply until established, then water during prolonged drought rather than keeping soil constantly wet. Allow the surface to dry somewhat between waterings. Check plants competing with larger neighbors, as their small foliage clumps can conceal dry roots.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose well-drained soil, preferably neutral to alkaline. Plant at nursery depth and avoid burying the base beneath rich compost or mulch. Improve the site or use a raised bed if winter water collects. A soil test should guide any lime application.

FEEDING

These species do not need heavy feeding. Use only a modest fertilizer application if soil is deficient, following the label. Excess fertility can encourage weak, floppy stems. Do not add rich amendments repeatedly around the small crown.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove finished flower stems for tidiness and to reduce unwanted seedlings, or retain selected seed heads in a naturalistic planting. Keep sound basal foliage through winter and remove damaged growth in spring. Rejuvenate crowded or aging clumps when necessary, handling the crown carefully.

HELPFUL TIPS

These are tall-flowered species, not low cushion pinks or Sweet William. Check the species label for mature height and hardiness. Watch for aphids, slugs, rust and mildew, and maintain air circulation. Avoid overwatering to correct a leaning stem; first check light and competition. Wear gloves if the foliage or sap irritates your skin.