




# Silene caroliniana

## (Northern) Wild Pink

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

This charming wildflower's rose-pink blooms, which somewhat resemble those of phlox, bring bright color to the spring garden, and its foliage is semi-evergreen in winter. It is native to dry forests, [barrens](#), and outcrops in most of the Mid-Atlantic\* where it tolerates a range of soils.



Perennial	Flowers, Mounds, Developing Fruit
Height: ½–1 foot	
Spread: ½–1 foot	
Bloom Color: Pink	
Characteristics	
Low, mounded, mat-forming <a href="#">perennial</a> wildflower	
Narrow, <a href="#">lanceolate</a> , <a href="#">semi-evergreen</a> basal leaves and 2–4 pairs of smaller, <a href="#">opposite stem</a> leaves	
Loose clusters of tubular flowers with 5 wedge-shaped <a href="#">petals</a> , 10 <a href="#">stamens</a> , & 3 <a href="#">styles</a> April to May	
<a href="#">Glandular pubescent</a> stems, leaves (sometimes), <a href="#">pedicels</a> , and <a href="#">calyxes</a> deter insect herbivores	
<a href="#">Ellipsoid/obovoid denticidal capsule</a> w/ 6–8 teeth	
Spreads from much-branched stem base ( <a href="#">cespitose</a> )	
Attributes	
Tolerates drought and a range of <a href="#">soils</a> , including shallow, rocky soil; no serious pests or diseases, although <a href="#">root rot</a> may occur in overly wet soil	
<a href="#">Deer</a> rarely severely damage	
Attracts native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and nocturnal moths to early season nectar; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~5 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a>	<p><b>Excellent Replacement for</b></p> <p><i>Dianthus</i> spp. - Pinks</p> <p><a href="#">Lysimachia nummularia</a> - Creeping Jenny</p> <p><a href="#">Vinca Minor</a> - Periwinkle</p> <p><small>*<i>Silene caroliniana</i> Walter. var. <i>pennsylvanica</i> is <a href="#">native</a> to DC and rare in the Coastal Plain of DE. It is present in the Piedmont and mountains of MD and in PA, except for northern most counties. It is frequent throughout VA, except in the far southwest. In NoVA, it is not been reported in Arlington County or Alexandria.</small></p>
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained	
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Dry (occasionally), Moist	
Benefits from some afternoon shade	
Do not disturb once established	
Use in rock gardens, border fronts, wildflower gardens, or as a ground cover	
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 5a–8b	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Mary Free (flowers), Master Gardener Tribute Garden and by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA