



G & K Carnations

Catalogue
2023

Welcome to our latest catalogue, we do hope you enjoy the content.

We have introduced some new varieties especially with the Pinks as we realise that more and more growers are looking for plants that can be grown in pots and have scent and what better way than having them growing where you want to have them on your patio, window boxes and even in hanging baskets, so we are pleased to offer some of the newest Pinks, bred especially for such, fully hardy, providing colour from early summer through to autumn, with a fresh heady fragrance.

We also have some new introductions from home and Europe, many of which have not been grown before in this country, and are all vigorous, clean, healthy and virus free plants.

All the plants have been grown on by us and therefore they must not be confused with just rooted cuttings as all plants will have been grown on from cuttings into 7cm pots and well rooted prior to dispatch, they are then when ready dispatched via the Royal Mail and we will contact you on the day of dispatch, and all plants will now be postage free.

We are also going to change the wording of our “Perpetual Flowering Carnations” as we feel this gives out the wrong impression and is very confusing to those who do not grow Carnations as they are only such Perpetual Flowering if heat and light can be provided throughout the year, they have their flowering season which is normally from early summer until late autumn; so we are calling them as other countries do as Standard Carnations.

We remain eternally grateful to you our customers old and new who have purchased plants from us and helped us get through these past few years, we do hope that you have enjoyed growing the plants and from your feedback you have.

We are making plans to be at many horticultural shows around the country where we will be putting on floral displays of our cut flower Carnations, where we have many of the varieties on display for sale. So please enjoy the catalogue and once again many thanks for all your support.

Best wishes
Gill & Keith

Growing Standard Carnations.

For anyone starting out growing Carnations then below is a few useful tips that could assist you to grow them in pots.

Growing Standard Carnations is not difficult, they can be grown in most composts, as potting composts are only a medium for the plant to anchor its roots, its through the roots that the plant is fed and watered, therefore the plant depends on you to look after its needs as its roots can not leave the pot to look after itself.

Its best to start with fresh potting compost, not from the garden or compost heap but one that is available in a bag which should provide enough nourishment providing a healthy root system. Nowadays there is such a wide variety of compost to choose from and most is now peat free and for a beginner new to growing Carnations such choice can seem rather daunting. So, what are we looking for in a compost when growing Carnations, well the compost mixture should be free draining and yet moisture retaining, and we would recommend John Innes Composts as these composts contain loam.

Standard Carnations will need stopping if they have not already been done so, this is the removal of the growing tip which once done will allow the flowering stems to form.

Over watering is the commonest cause of failure, so keeping the plants on the dry side especially in the early stages of growth, as the roots are very easily drowned.

When plants are in their final pots, which should be at least a 2-litre pot, use some form of hoop system with 3' canes to assist in keeping the plants upright and supported. On first potting up do not give any liquid feed for at least 4 weeks, this will make the plants roots search into the new compost for feed.

Once feeding commences it would be best to start with a balanced feed, such as Chempak No 3.

During the summer months water them regularly to keep the soil just moist but not waterlogged.

Constantly monitor the plants for pests, a good magnifying glass is a very good aid.

Spray a pesticide and fungicide on a regular basis, far better do so as a preventive rather than a cure, pesticide weekly and fungicide monthly. We use a spray which is produced by Moonshine Bio and is readily available, it is a natural blend of plant extracts and is bio degradable, it is not hazardous to human health or the environment. There are plenty of alternatives including pyrethrum based sprays and Hydroponic shops or websites are the best to look at regarding ordering or advice.

Lower buds appear about two months after final potting, most growers dis-bud leaving only the crown bud to flower on each stem. Growers normally place an elastic band or similar around the crown bud to prevent the calyx from splitting when the flower expands. To dis-bud, hold the stem with one hand, and pull the bud and its stalk sideways with the other hand, do not take all of the side buds off at one go as this can cause a sudden rush of sap and cause the crown bud to split the calyx, gradually and in the morning is best.

Most books will advise shading the greenhouse glass to prevent scorching from strong sunlight, we have learned that here in the NE this is not advisable as deprived of any light will see the plants slow down, if certain cultivars need shading for colour then it is best to use fleece or netting over those plants once they have come into bloom.

Cut stems from the 7th node down from the crown bud and place in water ASAP.

Take cuttings between the 7th-10th node as these are the best. We start after our shows are finished, around the end of September and until all cuttings have rooted and sometimes this can be the end of December. We do not use any form of heat to grow our plants on, this we feel gives us good strong short internodal plants that make good root growth and ready for the spring to be potted on.

We discard all plants once cuttings have been taken as we have found that the new cuttings have more vigour and make better growth, plus older plants can carry pest and disease.

Standard Carnations.





Standard Carnations.

Antartica.

A truly wonderful clear white self with good stems.



Alcazar.

A strong good pink self, makes a very good bloom.



Apple Tea.

Another eye catching flower, pink ticks on a cream base.



Standard Carnations.

Bello.

Another eye catching flower, a light refreshing yellow self.



Celtic.

A green self, makes a very nice flower. It glows among the darker colours on the stand.



Cervantes.

A strong cerise colour self.



Standard Carnations.

Copacabana.

A delicate soft terracotta with overlays of darker peach, really stunning.



Cortes.

A vibrant scarlet red self. This is one of our favourite red blooms.



Dubai.

A very striking bloom, deep red colour self, short grower but with strong stems.



Standard Carnations.

Golem.

A very impressive deep purple self. Another that is always in demand.



Holmes.

A white ground fancy, with variegated rose markings



Julia.

A very soft pink colour self, that soften on opening but gives the look of darker tones in the centre.



Standard Carnations.

Lorca.

A Yellow fancy Picotee.
Yellow base with a wire
edge of light red.



Mustang.

Deep purple with ticks of
light red, always sells out
early.



Novia.

A very good peach self in a
much needed colour.



Standard Carnations.

Pastel Damascus.

A Picotee type, light lilac with a dark red wire edge.



Purple Damascus.

A strong violet self, strong colour that goes well with other colours.



Royal Damascus.

A flushed pale violet Picotee with a wire edge of a deep violet, always looks good in any display.



Standard Carnations.

Tonic Golem.

A very deep pink with undertones of cerise, a much admired bloom.



Wine Cover.

An absolute stunning bloom. A fancy with a green tint, overlayed soft rose colour markings, looks tremendous and always sold out.



Wow.

A real eyecatcher of a bloom, a green Bi-Colour.



Standard Carnations.

Yara.

A deep violet self, one of the darkest in its class.



All pictures are to give you guidance as to how the plant may look when in flower and depending on how you are viewing our products and your screen settings and pixels some colour variations may occur.

Patio and Garden Pinks.



Pinks are so versatile, they can be grown in just about any situ as long as there is good drainage and good light levels, the one thing that both Carnations and Pinks have in common is that they detest their roots being in pools of water.

If you can not provide Pinks with such growing conditions then grow them in pots or indeed any receptacle that has good drainage; we use clay terracotta pots due to them being porous and we use J.I.No 2 mixed 50/50 with grit and they flower from June until the severe frosts arrive, they provide a constant cut flower for the home plus they have the addition of being scented.

All the Pinks in the above photo are grown in some form of pot, box, or basket.

They are totally frost hardy and tough as old boots, the following page has some tips on how to look after them.

Patio and Garden Pinks.

Some tips on growing Garden Pinks for cut flower.

Ideally plant a row in the garden where they will have the maximum light and air movement.

They grow best in a position that gives good sun for at least six hours a day.

They prefer a neutral to Alkaline soil that drains well.

Pinks do not tolerate wet soil, overwatering and heavy clay soils are the kiss of death. If you can not give them the correct soil conditions then grow them in terracotta clay pots, use a good loam compost such as J.I.No2 mixed 50/50 with grit.

In winter keep any mulch and leaf debris away from the centre of the plants, do not mulch the plants in pots, as this can lead to stem rot.

Harvest the flowers when they are almost fully open - not in bud. Picking when the buds are too tight could result in the perfume not developing fully.

Cut off the stem at the base of the plant, in order to keep the plant tidy and to encourage repeat flowering.

Snap the stem at a node (joint) close to the base of the plant. If the stems are tough it is preferable to cut the flowers with scissors or a knife to avoid damaging the plant and thereby reducing the risk of disease entering wounds.

Ensure the plants are regularly fed throughout the flowering season using a rose or tomato 1:1:2 fertiliser.

Watering is preferable at ground level rather than overhead which may damage the blooms. Some varieties may take a six week rest after the first flush of flower but after feeding and watering they will start again. This way you should be able to have a continuous harvest of blooms for cutting from the end of May until the end of September.

Patio and Garden Pinks.

Pinks can be grown in any thing, just let your imagination go, place them in positions where you can enjoy the scent.

We have tried some in hanging baskets and there are so many kinds of basket.



Pots can be moved around where their scented mass of flowers can be fully appreciated.



They also make ideal ground cover where their colourful flowers will dazzle.



Pinks.

Pink Kisses

Flowers are pink with a central darker pink-red marking on each petal, clove scented flowers smother the plant.

Perfect for all situations, pots and planters, beds, or as a rockery feature.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.

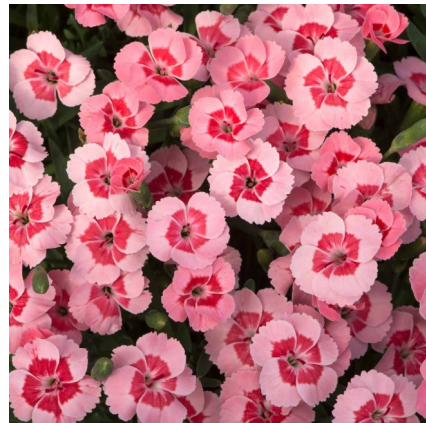


Peach Party

Soft apricot-pink flowers that will develop a darker centre with a fresh heady fragrance.

These compact and bushy little plants are perfect for showing off in patio pots or tucking into gaps at the front of the border.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Pinks.

Early Love

Very fragrant, double flowers are deep raspberry pink with a maroon centre.

Ideal for pots, window boxes, and even baskets.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Purple Wedding

Bicoloured blooms, they will provide a long season of interest throughout the summer, and they will give instant colour to your pots.

Plant in containers and enjoy their spicy perfumed blooms
The blooming is incredible, they just come repeatedly and cover the entire plant.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Pinks.

Oscar Violet and Pink

A dazzling scented pink double with violet markings.

Flowers in abundance

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Oscar Pink and Purple

Strong deep pink double with a very catching deep purple centre.

Strong fragrance and ideal for any containers.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Pinks.

Oscar Dark Red

Fragrant beautiful dark red double.

Flowers carpet the plant and are produced in abundance, great for any containers.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.



Oscar Pink

Produces fragrant double pink flowers with darker pink markings in the centre.

Fully hardy, can flower from late spring through to early autumn.

It is fabulous in a pot or container.



Spray Carnations.

Spray Carnations have been available for many years they are not as widely grown as they should be by the amateur gardener, possibly due to the bad press that they have had as most are viewed as the poor cut flower that are seen at garage forecourts or in the supermarkets, yet the present day Spray is nothing like these; they are an extremely excellent cut flower, especially nowadays they are available in lots of different colours.

Recent breeding has seen varieties that are totally frost hardy and they make good patio plants, in fact they can be grown in the garden.

In a pot they are grown in exactly the same conditions as Standard Carnations, same compost and feed, and they will need stopping if they have not already been done so, this is the removal of the growing tip which once done will allow the flowering stems to form.

Once formed the only difference is that instead of allowing only the crown bud to flower and removing all side buds it is the exact opposite for Sprays, once the flowering stem has produced the crown bud and it is large enough to handle then this is removed and all side buds are allowed to develop.

They perform consistently throughout the year providing a continuing supply of good sized high quality flowers, we grow them in both the poly-tunnel and outside in patio pots, these we grow in large terracotta clay pots, with either 3 or 5 to a pot depending on the pot size and with blue Lobelia around the edge of the pots they make a good patio pot.

For anyone who want a good consistent supply of cut flowers for the house or for floral work there is nothing better than Spray Carnations with some good varieties now available. They are relatively trouble free and put on a good show providing blooms over a long period.

Spray Carnations.

Amaral.

Soft Pink self.



Enigma.

A striking light purple with a dark purple centre.



Lynx.

A beautiful deep purple self.



Marfil.

A nice white self.



Rascal Green.

A very nice green self.
The colour mixes well with darker colours



How to order.

All orders are subject to availability at the time of dispatch due to limited stock, as these are sold as surplus stock as we are not a commercial grower.

Full payment must accompany your order unless previous arrangement has been made, and all orders are subject to availability.

Should a variety be sold out we will substitute with a variety which is of equal unless advised no substitutes.

Cheques/postal orders made payable to :- G & K Carnations.

Orders will be dispatched when they are ready from late March 2023.

All orders are sent with the Royal Mail and are **FREE** of P&P
If for any reason you are dissatisfied with the plants then please return within 48 hours of receipt.

Acknowledgement of orders will not be sent, if you require such acknowledgement please send SAE or please give your email address.

All plants are sold subject to these terms and conditions.

Please print your POST CODE clearly, along with any contact details such as phone number or email address so that we can inform you that your plants have been sent.

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Tel:-.....

Email address.....

All plants in the catalogue are priced at **£3.00 each.**

We do offer the following collections and all the plants are from this catalogue.

Perpetual Carnation Collection

This collection will be made up of 10 Perpetual Carnations of our choosing and priced at £25 per collection.

Spray Carnation Collection

This collection will be made up of 10 Spray Carnations of our choosing and priced at £25 per collection.

Pink Collection

This collection will be made up of 10 Garden Pinks of our choosing and priced at £25 per collection.

FREE Postage on all orders

Cheques/postal orders made payable to :- G & K Carnations.

Please send all orders to:-

G & K Carnations

**52, Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Ouston,
Chester Le St, Co Durham, DH2 1TQ.**

Tel: 01914106725

Border Carnations.

Border Carnations are **NOT** stopped and for exhibition purposes pot on into at least a 2 litre pot using the same compost mix as Standard, as stated do not stop the plant and allow the main crown bud to flower, removing side buds as they develop.

Only feed once with a higher potash feed when the crown bud is formed. Support the growing stem with at least a 3' cane and tie in the growing stem to the cane to keep the stem straight, use wire rings or twist ties for such.

They may be grown in the border and kept outside as they are totally frost hardy but if showing then protect the blooms from adverse weather conditions, if grown just for flower then do not remove the side buds as this will extend the flowering period.

We are still building up stock, and even more so now since last Novembers storm Arwen wiped out our poly-tunnel that we kept the Border Carnations in. So unfortunately we will not have any Border Carnations for sale this year.

We are trying to build up a National collection, and for this we seek your help. It's unfortunate that Border Carnations are no longer as popular as they once were and due to this so many Border Carnations are being lost, if you can assist us with adding to our collection then please contact us as we would be extremely grateful for any cultivar of the older varieties, if you are unsure of their names then still contact us as we can trace the cultivars name and it would help build up a record. Please contact us if you can help or know of anyone who still grows these aristocrats of the Carnation world.



Send all orders to:-
G & K Carnations
52, Abbotside Close,
Urpeth Grange, Ouston,
Chester Le St, Co Durham,
DH2 1TQ.

email: gandkcarnations@gmail.com

Tel: 01914106725

Website: gandkcarnations.com