



G & K Carnations

**Catalogue
2025**

Multi RHS Gold Medal Winners

Welcome to our 2025 catalogue, we do hope you enjoy the content.

Our aim has always been to give you the opportunity to grow some of the latest Carnation varieties and we have for 2025 been able to bring some new introductions from home and Europe, many of which have not been grown before in this country, they are all vigorous, clean, healthy and virus free plants.

All plants will have been grown on by us and therefore they must not be confused with just rooted cuttings, they will be well rooted plants grown in 7cm pots prior to dispatch; they are dispatched via Royal Mail tracking, where they will text you stating a delivery time slot, and this is why we require either your email address or mobile phone number, and of course please do not forget that all plants are postage free.

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 have this year been exhibiting at many horticultural shows around the country where we have been putting on floral displays of our cut flower Carnations, and we are proud to say that we have won 4 RHS Gold Medals and won a top award at every show that we have attended. We sincerely send our thanks to all the hardworking show officials, stewards and security staff for making us so very welcome, and of course to all the judges who have been so kind with their comments and whose guidance has helped us win so many awards.

So please enjoy the catalogue and once again many thanks for all your support.

Best wishes
Gill & Keith

We attend show venues around the country where we put on a display of our cut flowers, and we have many of the display varieties for sale, come along and see us, we love to hear how you grow Carnations or if you need any advice then we are only to please to help.

Must mention, our many thanks to all of you who purchase our blooms at the end of the show, very much appreciated.



Berberatus Fresh goes so well with any colour and enhances the accompanying blooms colour, here it is with Carnation Celtic and they last so long as a cut flower.



One of my many favourite flowers, the pure colours are always so fresh looking when first opening and it is great to have a different combination of colour.

The flower displays shades of purple ranging from dark purple to light violet, creating a beautiful gradient effect that is truly captivating. Its colour adds a touch of sophistication to any floral arrangement.



Novia another favourite, just such a clean eye catching bloom, always in demand for Bridal flowers



We will only be selling Pinks at our attended shows, this is so we can have the plants growing away in a larger pot and starting to flower.



We had a glorious weekend at Gardeners World Live Autumn Show at Saffron Walden, in the grounds of Audley End House.

Great to talk to so many people with past memory of the Carnations that were grown by Carl Engelmann and especially meeting his grandson John Shippey who is researching his grandad's nursery, many thanks John for sending us some of the fantastic photos of your grandads nursery especially those grand displays that they put on at the RHS Chelsea shows, just wow!!



Not everything goes to plan, even in the summer.

Not to worry the show team were soon on hand and everything was soon cleared up and back to normal, many thanks to all the RHS staff.



Growing 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, or even a bag of Topsoil.

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, good light and moist compost is the aim.

Growing Carnations.

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.

Balitico.

A pure white Carnation,
that symbolize pure love
and good luck



Bridal Damascus.

A very soft colour of pink
Pink Carnations signify
gratitude and are the official
flower for Mother's Day.



Celtic.

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



Standard Carnations.

Cherry Damascus.

A real beauty, an exquisite flower.



Cortes.

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



Ivy.

A deep rich hue of burgundy
adds a touch of class and
elegance



Standard Carnations.

Julia.

A true pink self, it makes a good floral display mixed with colours of the same hue.

Pink Carnations signifies gratitude and the official flower for Mother's Day.



Lorca.

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



Lucy.

A deep burgundy self, stunning colour.



Standard Carnations.

Mustang.

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



Novia.

A very good peach self in a much needed colour. Makes a beautiful Bridal bouquet.



Peach Tea.

A very delicate soft peach with hints of a champagne colour.



Standard Carnations.

Ocaso.

French grey and with pink streaks, looks outstanding {Photo is just a guide to the colours)



Perfect.

A white ground fancy with purple edging, stands out.



Purple Storm.

Theres something that is sultry and alluring about deep purple Carnations and this new edition stands out with its appeal, just stunning.



Standard Carnations.

Royal Damascus.

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



Saona.

A peach/terracotta, a real
eyecatcher.



Tonic Golem.

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



Standard Carnations.

Vinko.

A clear bright yellow.



Wow.

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



Zenit.

A real eyecatcher of a bloom, with memorising colour combination of red and dark red on a yellow background, stands out in any floral display.



Barberatus Fresh.

A very striking bloom, a deep green with strong tall stems, it makes a neat ball of green. Very much admired when displayed.



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.

All of our Pinks will be only available at the shows we are attending, this is to allow the plants to grow and be in flower.

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

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.

Minimum order 4 plants.

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

Orders will be dispatched when they are ready from April 2025.

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:-.....

Mobile number.....

email address.....

email or mobile for Royal Mail tracking

All plants in the catalogue are priced at **£3.50 each.**
Minimum order is 4 plants

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

Perpetual/Standard Carnation Collection

This collection will be made up of 10 Perpetual Carnations
of our choosing and priced at £30 per collection.

FREE Postage on all orders

Cheques/postal orders made payable to
G & K Carnations or BACS the amount
(In this choice we will email you our bank details)

Please send all orders to:-

G & K Carnations
52, Abbotside Close, Ouston,
Chester Le St, Co Durham, DH2 1TQ.
Tel: 01914106725
email gandkcarnations@gmail.com

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.

Variety	Quantity	£
Balitico		
Bridal Damascus		
Celtic		
Cherry Damascus		
Cortes		
Ivy		
Julia		
Lorca		
Lucy		
Mustang		
Novia		
Ocaso		
Peach Tea		
Perfect		
Purple Storm		
Royal Damascus		
Saona		
Tonic Golem		
Vinko		
Wow		
Zenit		
Barberatus Fresh		

Collection of 10 plants

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 the November storm Arwen wiped out our poly-tunnel that we kept the Border Carnations in. So unfortunately we will still 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
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Urpeth Grange, Ouston,
Chester Le St, Co Durham,
DH2 1TQ.

email: gandkcarnations@gmail.com

Tel: 01914106725

Website: gandkcarnations.com