



Pop Star



Starlette

Dianthus Double Star Series

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Short and sassy, sweet and spicy-scented, these new selections from the breeder of the Star series have double, Double Star appeal. Uniform habit and clean, tidy blue green foliage add up to a sure bet.

- **Pop Star**—deeply fringed, lavender pink, with dark magenta center
- **Starlette**—vibrant magenta with dark red center

USES

These *Dianthus* are perfect for rockeries, front of the border and early-season containers. As an early-to-midseason color crop, they are great for Mother's Day. Drought tolerant once established, they are good for low-water-use landscaping.

GROWER NOTES

- Best grown in full sun and fast-draining soil. Allow to dry between waterings, and avoid watering late in the day or whenever conditions will keep foliage wet for long periods.
- These cultivars, especially Starlette, require 6–8 weeks vernalization to fill out well and set heavy buds. Early fall planting outdoors in milder climates or planting in a protected area heated to 40–50° F will allow plants to bulk up and set heavy buds.
- Use a fungicide drench at transplant to prevent *Pythium*, *Alternaria* and *Fusarium*. Good air circulation and careful watering is the best disease prevention, but use monthly sprays when conditions are optimum for disease development.
- Monitor for mites and thrips routinely. Thrips can cause damage to blooms and be difficult to control once established.
- Deadhead before bloom is completely past to prolong flowering time for a longer sales window.
- Pinch out centers on very young plugs to promote branching, but often is not necessary if plants are grown cool. Use an application of Florel® (ethephon) 3–4 weeks after transplant to encourage basal breaks, but apply before buds are developed, or flowering may be affected.
- Plant in early fall transplant for a full gallon. Otherwise, transplant into an intermediate size and hold cool for late winter transplant into gallons for finish in 8 weeks.

PLANT DATA

- Height: 4–5"/7"
- Spread: 8"
- Bloom: May–Sep
- USDA Zone: 4(-30°)

APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- 4" from 128-cell liner: 5–6 weeks from early spring transplant
- 4" from 128-cell liner: 26 weeks from fall transplant
- Gallon from 128-cell liner: 28–32 weeks

PATENT INFORMATION

Asexual propagation prohibited
D. Popstar ('DEVON ESTHER'): COPF, USPP #18222
D. Starlette: COPF, USPPP