



Eastern Star



Fire Star



Neon Star



Pop Star



Shining Star



Starlette

Dianthus Star Series

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Star Series is a collection of compact, long-blooming, hardy and heat tolerant *Dianthus* bred in England. Several different cultivars are available, ranging in color from light pink through crimson and magenta; all have attractive, mounding foliage. Heaviest bloom is in spring, but plants will continue to flower sporadically in summer, and often bloom again quite heavily in fall. Availability of virus-free material provides plants with better vigor and disease resistance than many traditional cultivars of *Dianthus*. *PlantHaven*; *Whetman Star Series*.

Eastern Star—Single, ruby red flowers with dark burgundy centers. Silvery green foliage.

Fire Star—Vivid fire red blossoms with darker crimson around the eye. Single flowers. Grayish green leaves. Lovely fragrance of cloves.

'Neon Star'—Bright neon magenta, single flowers. Silvery blue foliage.

Pop Star—Deeply fringed, double flower—lavender pink, with a dark magenta center.

Shining Star—Very large, very bright pink, single blossoms with blue green leaves.

Starlette—Double, vibrant magenta flower with a 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

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- 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, providing a longer sales window.
- Pinch out centers on very young plugs to promote branching, but it is often 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 for a full gallon. Otherwise, transplant into an intermediate size and hold cool for late winter transplant into gallons, for finish in eight weeks.

continued



Pop Star & Starlette

PLANT DATA

Eastern Star

Height: 4–8"/8"
 Spread: 10"
 Bloom time: May–Sep
 USDA Zone: 4(-30°)

Fire Star

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

'Neon Star'

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

Pop Star

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

Shining Star

Height: 4–6"/6"
 Spread: 8"
 Bloom time: May–Sep
 USDA Zone: 4(-30°)

Starlette

Height: 4–7"/7"
 Spread: 8"
 Bloom time: 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 early fall transplant
- Gallon from 128-cell liner: 28–32 weeks from fall transplant

PATENT INFORMATION

Asexual propagation prohibited

D. Eastern Star ('Red Dwarf'): COPF, CPBR #3110, USPP #14437

D. Fire Star ('Devon Xera'): COPF, CPBR #3111, USPP #14895

D. 'Neon Star': COPF, CPBR #2751, USPP #14549

D. Pop Star ('Devon Esther'): COPF, USPP #18222

D. Shining Star ('Alva'): COPF, USPPP

D. Starlette ('Evian'): COPF, USPPP