

Rose Campion

Lychnis Coronaria is an old fashioned cottage garden favorite that is very hardy and beautiful. Its striking magenta flowers jump out at you against the glowing grey foliage. I have had great luck with it even in clay soil, but it is on a slope. It's tough, virtually maintenance free, and re-seeds, what else could you ask for? Seed can be purchased online at Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. This spring I purchased some very health plants at the Amador Master Gardeners spring plant sale to add to my collection. Give it a try, you'll sure to fall in love.



Size: 32" tall, 18" wide

Exposure: Full sun, partial shade in hottest areas

How to Plant: plant in well drained soil from seed or transplants in late fall or early spring. Seeds like light for germination so do not cover with soil. If you would like to start indoors; chill the seeds in the refrigerator for 3 weeks. Germinate at a temperature of 70 degrees; germination occurs in 20 -25 days.

Water needs: regular water, tolerant of dry spells. Do not over water.

Soil: Lychnis likes well drained soil and can tolerate dry conditions. It will not tolerate wet soil conditions. If you mulch, the seeds don't germinate well, due to lack of light.

Pruning needs: Prune back in late fall or early winter.

Snapshot: Botanical name Lychnis Coronaria. Lychnis is from the Greek word lamp referring to the flame like blossoms of some varieties; and the felt like leaves that were once used as wicks in lamps. It is an amazing plant with grey felt like foliage and deep magenta pink flowers. The flowers are 1-1 4" with 5 petals. It also comes in a white and pale pink variety. Other varieties in the Lychnis family are orange and red. Bloom time is early summer into late fall. Rose Campion is a short lived perennial that self sows readily. Let seed heads stay if you would like more plants. Good in zones 3 -9

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