

Coleus (see Solenostemon)

Cockscombe (see Celosia)

Cosmos

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae)

Genus: *Cosmos*

Common Name: Purple Mexican Aster

Origin: South-western USA to tropical America and Mexico.

Appearance: White, purple, pink or seldom yellow flowers with radiate flower heads. Leaves finely dissected.

Culture: Ordinary soil. Warm position. Not frost-hardy. Water well in hot, dry weather. Deadhead regularly.

Propagation: Seed. Will often self-seed if dried heads left.

Health: Usually no problems, but occasional infestations of red spider mite or aphids.

Uses: Borders, pots, cottage gardens. Butterfly and bee attractant.

Cultivars/Species: 20+ species. Common garden Cosmos is *C. bipennatus*. Cultivars are many and varied. Examples are 'Purity', 'Dazzler', 'Antiquity', 'Rose Picotee', 'Seashells'.



Cosmos Little Angels



Cosmos bipinnatus Sonata Pink Blush

Crambe

Family: Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

Genus: *Crambe*

Common Name: Kale, Seakale, Colewort

Origin: Canary Islands to western Asia.

Appearance: Usually fleshy or thick, blue-green, mostly very large, lobed leaves. Small, white flowers; numerous, in racemes or panicles.

Culture: Ordinary, rich soil. Sunny, open position.

Propagation: Seed or root cuttings.

Health: Possibility of club root as this is a Brassica.

Uses: Spectacular garden plant. Back of the border as it is so tall. Major attractant for bees, butterflies and many other insects.

Cultivars/Species: *C. cordifolia*, *C. maritima*, *C. tatarica*. Cultivars: 'Lilywhite'.



Crambe maritima SeaKale

Crossandra

Family: Acanthaceae

Genus: *Crossandra*

Common Name: Firecracker Flower

Origin: Africa, Madagascar and Arabia.

Appearance: Ovate leaves arranged in opposite pairs. Showy flowers in spikes.

Culture: Compost of equal parts peat, sand and loam. Grow potted specimens in soilless compost. Water in moderation in winter, liberally during the rest of the

year. Cut back shoots that have flowered by about half in late winter, to promote branching. Requires hot sunny location. Good house plant.

Propagation: Shoot cuttings (approx. 5-7 cm long) in late spring or summer, or seeds in spring.

Health: Susceptible to mealy bug, scale and whitefly.

Uses: Containers, beds, borders, conservatories, greenhouses.

Cultivars/Species: *C. infundibuliformis*. 'Orange Marmalade'.



Crossandra Fireglow

Delphinium

Family: Ranunculaceae

Genus: *Delphinium*

Common Name: Larkspur

Origin: Temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Appearance: Palmate leaves. Flowers are commonly blue, in racemes.

Culture: Ordinary, rich soil. Prefers sunny position, but may tolerate light shade.

Propagation: Seed, cuttings of young shoots or root division in order to maintain type. Some cultivars bred to come true from seed.

Health: Prone to slug and snail attack as shoots emerge in spring. Powdery mildew possible, also a virus and root rot.

Uses: Cottage garden. Beds and borders. Cut flowers.

Cultivars/Species: Around 250 species, including *D. cardinale*, *D. elatum*. Cultivars: huge selection including 'Blue Dawn', 'Blue Bird', 'Blue Nile', 'Bruce', 'Emily Hawkins', 'Sunglem'.



Delphinium

Dianthus

Family: Caryophyllaceae

Genus: *Dianthus*

Common Name: Carnation, Pink, Picotee, Sweet William, American Carnation, Malmaison Carnation, Maiden Pink, Deptford Pink, Indian and Chinese Pink

Origin: Eurasia to South Africa.

Appearance: Opposite leaves. Showy, often fragrant, mostly pink flowers.

Culture: Sunny position. Rich, ordinary slightly alkaline soil. Stake taller varieties and prune stems after flowering.

Propagation: Seed (annuals) in autumn or early spring, cuttings or layering (perennials) in summer.

Health: Aphids, thrips, caterpillars, slugs, rust and virus infections are all possible problems.

Uses: Rock gardens, front of borders, pots, dry areas.

Cultivars/Species: Around 300 species of annuals, biennials and perennials. Annuals include *D. chinensis* (pink), *D. barbatus* (Sweet William), *D. armeria*. Cultivars: 'Gran's Favourite', 'Musgrave's Pink', 'Sooty', 'Memories', 'Pink Fizz', 'Candy Floss', etc.



Dianthus barbatus Sweet William



Dianthus Faganza



Dianthus barbatus Sooty