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 boads. Leaves finely disperted

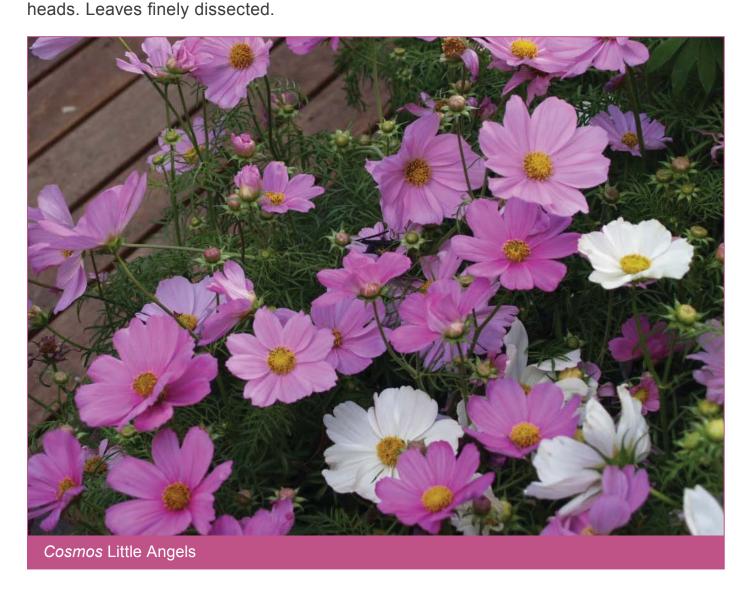
Culture: Ordinary soil. Warm position. Not frost-hardy. Water well in hot, dry weather. Deadhead regularly.

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'.





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'.



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'.



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', 'Sungleam'.



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



