

Dianthus gratianopolitanus Vill.

Cheddar Pink

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Caryophyllaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Densely tufted herb (perennial).

Habitat

At the edge of cliffs, into rock crevices.

Reasons for decline

Overcollecting, cessation of grazing, scrub encroachment.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Cheddar Gorge, N. Somerset	2	1,000s

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 2 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 3 Wildwalk-At-Bristol
- 4 Congrove Cottage

Gardens with specialisation on family Caryophyllaceae

University of Oxford Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Dianthus*

Crathes Castle Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - sow spring in a cold frame. The seed usually germinates in 2 - 4 weeks at 20°C. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on in the greenhouse for their first winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions in late spring or early summer, after the last expected frosts. Cuttings in July/August in a cold frame. Very high percentage. Division in March. Very easy, larger clumps can be replanted direct into their permanent positions, though it is best to pot up smaller clumps and grow them on in a cold frame until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the spring.

- Cultivation

Prefers a dry calcareous soil and a sunny position. Dislikes shade. Plants succeed when grown on the top of a broad or retaining wall. Plants grow well in a maritime environment, though they dislike damp conditions. Plants are hardy to about -20°C. A very ornamental plant. The flowers are strongly clove-scented and are very attractive to butterflies and moths. The double-flowered form, 'Flore Plena' has an even stronger scent.

Conservation information

Dianthus gratianopolitanus is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Linkages to BAPs

South Somerset Bap

Wild Things, A Biodiversity Action Plan For Bath And North East Somerset

Habitat Management

Populations have increased following statutory protection, scrub clearance and the re-instatement of grazing.

Protected sites with records for *D. gratianopolitanus* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- Plants For A Future Database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Dianthus+gratianopolitanus&CAN=LATIND
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>