

Galbally, J., Galbally, E.: **Carnation and Pinks for Garden and Greenhouses**. - Timber Press, Portland 1997. 310 pp. GBP 25.00. ISBN 0-88192-382-6.

The readers are provided with an excellent book written by John Galbally and his wife Eileen, introducing them into the beautiful world of carnations and pinks which belong to the most popular garden plants. The publication is based on authors' deep knowledge of the subject and their plentiful practical experience. They were interested in carnations and pinks as professional growers during nearly 50 years, they grew many of cultivars described in this book. John Galbally was very successful breeder: twenty two of his cultivars have received the highest award for garden plants - the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

The most popular and readily available *Dianthus* species, of more than 300 known, are described in the first chapter. Those which are ancestors of many carnation and pink cultivars or which are useful for further hybridization purposes are also included. In the following chapters the readers are guided through several centuries history of carnations and pinks cultivation and breeding and are met with the origin of cultivars and with many personalities that were engaged in the breeding. Chapters with very extensive lists of cultivars help choosing plants for every garden purpose. Border carnations, perpetual flowering carnations and pinks are given separately. Several chapters cover all aspects of outdoor and greenhouse cultivation including commercial carnation production, pests, diseases, and disorders. Two last chapters are devoted to theoretical and practical aspects of new cultivar breeding and to exhibiting and judging carnations and pinks. The text is illustrated by 75 colour photographs of cultivars and by many figures. List of societies and suppliers, subject index, and index of cultivars are assigned at the end.

This book is of great value not only for professional growers but also for all those who are interested in carnations and pinks.

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