

Dianthus barbatus

COMMON NAMES

Sweet William

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

GENUS

Dianthus

FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Dianthus barbatus L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1872

ORIGIN

Europe, W. Asia

ETYMOLOGY NOTE

One of the common names for *Dianthus barbatus* is 'gilly-flower' which is derived from the Greek name for the family Caryophyllaceae (Clayton, 1994).

ETYMOLOGY

dianthus: From the Greek dios 'god' or 'divine' and anthos 'flower, the divine flower

barbatus: From the Latin 'barbus', meaning bearded or provided with tufts of long weak hairs

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Clayton, F. (1994). Deities in my Garden: Generic names for plants from old mythology. ETY Publishing Ltd: Paraparaumu, New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

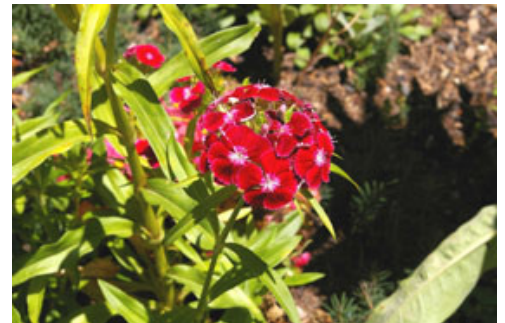
<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dianthus-barbatus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026



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