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

Dianthus barbatus. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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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/

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