

Royal Catchfly

Scientific Name: *Silene regia*



<u>Life Cycle</u>	<u>Plant Height</u>	<u>Plant Spacing</u>	<u>Soil Moisture</u>	<u>Sun Exposure</u>	<u>Bloom Period</u>
Perennial	4 feet	1-2 feet	Medium,Medium-Dry	Full, Partial	June-August

A plant rarely seen in the wild due to habitat loss, but easy enough to grow in a home landscape. The scarlet, trumpeting flowers beckon to all the hummingbirds in the area, as well as Black Swallowtails. Smaller insects fall prey to the "catch" part of this plant: the stems and leaves are sticky. Although part of a carnivorous family, this head-turner does not gain nutrition from its captives. After getting stuck, the insects inevitably die. This presents another challenge for the plant. It is not healthy to have rotting insects stuck all over it. This is where the digestive enzymes come in. They quickly break down the insect bodies, keeping them from becoming putrid. Royal Catchfly is rare due to loss of prairie habitat and is endangered in some states. The bloom period is June-August for this excellent garden plant. A lovely unique red flower in gardens!

All information collected from Prairiemoon.com