



***Silene Virginica* – Fire Pink**

COMMON NAME: Fire Pink, Catchfly

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Silene Virginica* - the name comes from the Greek word for saliva, *seilenos*, because of the gummy substance on stems and sepals. This is probably the origin of “catchfly.”

FLOWER: Bright red. The flowers appear in small clusters of 2-inch individual flowers, each with five notched petals. This plant belongs to the “pink” family, thus the name fire pink.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to September

SIZE: 8 to 32 inches

BAHAVIOR: This is a short-lived erect perennial that is heat and drought tolerant. While it is found in a wide area, it is relatively uncommon and considered rare in some areas.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Prefers a rocky, acidic, well-drained soil in part shade. Often found where the soil quality is actually quite poor.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern half of the US, except for the far northeastern states, west to Minnesota, Iowa and Oklahoma. It is listed as endangered in Wisconsin and threatened in Michigan.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The brilliant red flowers lasting up to one month attract ruby-throated hummingbirds and colorful butterflies. Hummingbirds are the primary pollinators for this species. The sticky, hairy globules on the stem, upper leaves and calyx tend to entrap small insects.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plant in areas with partial shade and poor, well-drained soil.

COMPANION PLANTS: Include this plant in shade gardens and rock gardens.