

2024 March *Guess that Plant*



Dianthus ameria L., Deptford Pink

The March *Guess that Plant* is one of New Jersey's non-native annual and weak biennial herbs, *Dianthus ameria*, known as Deptford pink. This species is a European native that was introduced to North America as a garden plant. The genus *Dianthus* is not native to New Jersey, and all members of this group are introduced from gardens escapes.

Deptford pink is a member of the Caryophyllaceae, the Pink or Carnation family. New Jersey is home to multiple pink family species, such as such asthose in the genera *Scleanthus*, *Spergula*, *Spergularia*, *Sagia*, *Arenaria*, *Stellaria*, *Cerastrium*, *Lychnis*, *Silene*, and *Saponaria*. Our *Guess that Plant* is widely distributed throughout the state in dry upland roadsides, open fields, and abandoned farm fields. This species blooms throughout the summer, from June to September. It is distinguished by its upright habit, divergent branching, and fringed pink corolla

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