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Clarkia unguiculata

[Synonyms : *Clarkia elegans*]

CLARKIA (English, Swedish) is an annual. Native to western North America (particularly California), it has small white, pink, salmon, red or lavender flowers.

It is also known as Butterfly flower, Elegant clarkia, Elegant fairyfan, Farewell-to-spring, Flower of love, *Komeaklarkia* (Finnish), Mountain garland, Swan flower, and Tall clarkia.

There are many cultivated varieties.

Unguiculata is derived from Latin *unguis* (claw, hoof, finger, toe-nail) meaning ‘clawed’ with reference to the petals.

The seeds were eaten by the North American Miwok Indians.

Authorities believe that clarkia was introduced to Britain in about 1832.

The cut flowers are said to keep well in flower arrangements.