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Silene coronaria

[Synonyms : *Agrostemma coronaria*, *Agrostemma tomentosum*, *Coronaria coriacea*, *Coronaria tomentosa*, *Lychnis coriacea*, *Lychnis coronaria*, *Lychnis coronata*, *Lychnis grandiflora*]

ROSE CAMPION is a perennial (often grown as a biennial). Native from the Mediterranean to central Asia, it has small deep purple-red flowers.

It is also known as *Campion*, *Candelaria-dos-jardins* (Portuguese), *Coquelourde* (French), *Crown of the field*, *Dusty miller*, *Gardener's delight*, *Gardener's eye*, *Garland flower*, *Harmaakäenkukka* (Finnish), *Kohoutek věncový* (Czech), *Kranz-Lichtnelke* (German), *Kranzrade* (German), *Kronen-Lichtnelke* (German), *Mullein lychnis*, *Mullein pink*, *Purpurklätt* (Swedish), *Red bird's eye*, and *Vexiernelke* (German).

Coronaria is derived from Latin *corona* (crown) meaning 'of garlands or an ingredient in garlands, or crowned'.

In the past the leaf down was collected for lamp wicks.

For Christians in the Roman Catholic Church rose campion was dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

Authorities believe that this species was introduced to Britain in 1596 – although some suggest it may have been even earlier.

Medicinally, in India an extract of the root has been used for treating lung ailments and liver disorders.