

*Silene dioica*

[Synonyms : *Lychnis dioica*, *Lychnis dioica* subsp. *rubra*, *Lychnis preslii*, *Melandrium dioicum*, *Melandrium dioicum* subsp. *rubrum*, *Melandrium diurnum*, *Melandrium rubrum*, *Melandrium silvestre*, *Melandrium sylvestre*, *Silene rubra*]

**RED CAMPION** is a perennial. Native to Europe it has small deep pink (paler outside) flowers.

It is also known as Adder's flower, Bachelors' buttons, Billy buttons, Bird's eye, *Blodyn Taranau* (Welsh), Bob robin, Brid een, Bull rattle, Bull's eye, Champion, Cancer, Champion, Cock robin, Cockscomb, *Compagnon rouge* (French), Cow rattle, Cuckoo, Cuckoo flower, Cuckoopint, *Dag-Koekoeksbloem* (Dutch), *Dagpragtstjerne* (Danish), Devil's flower, Dolly winter, Drunkards, Fleabites, Evening lychnis, Gipsy-flower, Gramfer-greygles, Granfer-greygles, Granfer jan, Hare's eye, *Iliets d'fôssé* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Jack-by-the-hedge, Jack-in-the-lantern, Jan granfer, Johnny woods, Kettle smocks, *Knotovka červená* (Czech), Lousy beds, Lousy soldier's buttons, Mary Janes, Mintdrop, Mother dee, Mother die, Plum pudding, Poor Jane, Poor robin, Puddings, Ragged Jack, Red bachelor's button, Red bird's eye, Red butcher, Red catchfly, Red gramfer-greygles, Red Jack, Red mintdrop, Red riding hood, Red robin, Red robin hood, Red soapwort, Red soldiers, Robin flower, Robin Hood, Robin-i-th' hedge, Robin redbreast, Robin-run-in-the-hedge, Robins, Robin's eye, Robin's flower, Robroys, *Rödblära* (Swedish), Rose campion, *Rote Lichtnelke* (German), *Rote Nachtnelke* (German), *Rotes Leimkraut* (German), *Rote Waldnelke* (German), Round robin, Sarah Janes, Scalded apples, *Silenka dvoudomá* (Czech), *Skogslüst* (Swedish), Soldiers, Soldier's buttons, Sweet Willie, *Violette de fossai* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Wake robin, Water poppies, and White soapwort; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of gentleness.

The flowers are occasionally white.

*Dioica* refers to the male and female flowers growing on separate plants ie. dioecious.

The name Batchelors' buttons indicates that this was once one of the flowers worn as a buttonhole by young unmarried men.

In some areas of England red campion was one of the flowers that children never picked as they thought misfortune (and even death) could befall one of their parents if they did so.

The existence of red campion in Scandinavia is often considered there to be an indicator of copper.

Medicinally, in the past red campion was taken in a glass of red or white wine as treatment for not only kidney and urinal problems but also internal bleeding, and externally it was used on sores and ulcers.

It is the birthday flower for 20<sup>th</sup> October.