



fire pink

Silene virginica

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Fire pink is a perennial plant with upright stems that are branched, hairy and 12 to 24 inches tall. The simple, hairy leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. The lower leaves are rounded and about four inches long. The upper leaves are lance-shaped, pointed at the tip and grow to two and one-half inches long. Flowers are produced in a group at the tip of the stem. Each flower may be up to one and one-half inches wide. The five, thin, dark red petals are separated from each other into a star shape. Each petal is notched at the tip. The fruit is a capsule containing several warty seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Fire pink may be found at scattered locations throughout Illinois but is most commonly seen in the northeastern one-fourth of the state. It grows in dry woods. Flowers are produced from April through July.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
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