

Phlox divaricata

Wild Blue or Woodland Phlox





Tried and True

Native Plant Selections

for the Mid-Atlantic

This lovely wildflower is **native** to rich forests and fields in areas of the Mid-Atlantic including NoVA (except Prince William County). As the species name *divaricata* suggests, this shade-loving phlox has a horizontal spreading habit, making it a good woodland ground cover.



Perennial	Flowers En Masse, Close-up, Fruit, Mat
Height: ¾–1½ foot	
Spread: ¾–1 foot	
Bloom Color: Lavender, light blue-violet, pink, white	
Characteristics	
Mat-forming, evergreen herbaceous perennial	
Opposite , lanceolate to elliptic, pubescent leaves	 
Pubescent to glandular -hairy stems: sterile stems can be decumbent ; longer fertile stems erect	
Loose, flat clusters of delicately fragrant flowers (with tips notched/indented rather than rounded/angular like the mid-western subspecies) and densely glandular calyxes bloom April to May	
Ovid seed capsules from April to July	
Variously described as stoloniferous or rhizomatous	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil and drought	
Deer occasionally severely damage; rabbits may sometimes eat the foliage and voles the roots	
Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies like hair-streaks and swallowtails	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements : Rich, well-drained, organic	Excellent Replacement for
Light Requirements : Partial Shade, Shade	Alliaria petiolata - Garlic Mustard
Water Requirements : Moist	Ficaria verna - Lesser Celandine
May go dormant when it is too hot, dry or sunny	Ornithogalum umbellatum - Star-of-Bethlehem
Powdery mildew and spider mites are problems so cut back stems after flowering	Vinca minor - Periwinkle
Use as a ground cover in woodland gardens	<p>* It is native in DC. It is adventive (non-native, escaping from cultivation to roadsides) in DE and absent in the northeastern counties of PA. In VA, it is frequent to locally common in the mountains and Piedmont and rare in the inner Coastal Plain.</p>
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3–8	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden



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