




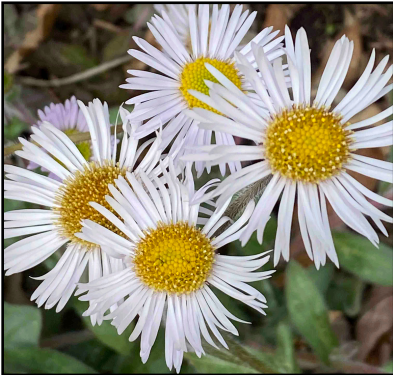

# Erigeron pulchellus

## Robin's Plantain

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

**Native\*** to rocky or open woods, stream banks, and fields and favoring dappled sun, this Aster family member delights with charming composite flowers for three weeks from late March to May. It can naturalize to create colonies where its basal rosettes form a dense, year-round carpet in naturalistic gardens, flower borders, or rock gardens.



Ground Cover	Basal Rosette, Buds, Flowers, Seed Heads	
Height: 1½–2 feet	 	
Spread: 1½–2 feet		
Bloom Color: White, pink to lavender	  	
Characteristics		
<a href="#">Perennial</a> with unbranched (except for <a href="#">peduncles</a> ) <a href="#">pubescent stem</a> rising from a basal <a href="#">rosette</a>		
Rosettes of soft, hairy, paddle-shaped basal leaves; <a href="#">alternate</a> , <a href="#">clasping</a> , ovate to <a href="#">lanceolate</a> stem leaves		
Loose terminal flower clusters ( <a href="#">capitula</a> ) with densely packed, thread-like <a href="#">ray florets</a> around central yellow <a href="#">disk florets</a> late March to May		
Bullet-shaped <a href="#">cypselae</a> with <a href="#">pappi</a> of capillary bristles develop 2–3 weeks following blooms		
Self-seeding, spreads by <a href="#">stolons</a>		
Attributes		
Tolerates drought, dry <a href="#">soil</a> , heat, humidity; no serious pests or diseases; rabbits may browse; <a href="#">deer</a> ** occasionally severely damage		
Attracts bees, flies, butterflies, and skippers; <a href="#">larval</a> host for ~20 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a>		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> - Bugleweed	
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Partial Shade	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> - Ground ivy	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Dry, Moist	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> - Ox-eye Daisy	
Good drainage essential, performs poorly in rich soils	<a href="#">Vinca minor</a> - Periwinkle	
Slow to germinate when grown from seed; sow thickly	<p>*It is present in DC, some MD counties, and much of PA. In DE, it is common in the Piedmont but absent in the Coastal Plain. In VA, it is frequent in the mountains and Piedmont; infrequent in the Coastal Plain. In NoVA, it is not reported in Loudoun County.</p> <p>**‘Lynnhaven’s Carpet’ <a href="#">cultivar</a> described as deer-resistant.</p>	
Use in meadows or naturalized areas, as ground cover in borders or rock gardens		
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 3a–8b		
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria		

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, and Glencarlyn Garden and by Mary Free (top right), Shade Garden