

Phlox paniculata

Fall or Garden Phlox

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Despite its rather finicky disposition, what makes this native* phlox a popular garden plant? Probably its panicles (as reflected in its epithet), large and showy with fragrant flowers in a range of white, pinks, and purples.



Perennial	Flowers en Masse* and with Monarch
Height: 1½–6½ feet	
Spread: 2–3 feet	
Bloom Color: White, pink, lavender, red-purple	
Characteristics	
Upright herbaceous perennial forming dense multi- stemmed clumps or open drifts	
Opposite , pointed lanceolate to elliptic leaves with ciliate margins and conspicuous pinnate venation , usually glabrous above and pubescent beneath	
Dense panicles of aromatic flowers with tubular corolla and five flat, rounded, petal -like lobes with exserted anthers and united styles bloom July to October followed by seed capsules	
Attributes	<p>Excellent Replacement for</p> <p>Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush</p> <p>Crococsmia - Crocosmia</p> <p>Hesperis matronalis - Dame's Rocket</p>
Tolerates clay soil, black walnut; intolerant of drought; serious problems include phlox bugs , powdery mildew , and root rot ; deer and rabbits occasionally severely damage foliage	
Attracts butterflies, skippers, moths, and hummingbirds; larval host to ~7 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements : Rich, well-drained	<p>*It is native to DC and MD and present throughout PA. It is not indigenous to DE. In VA, it is frequent in the mountains and northern Piedmont and infrequent elsewhere.</p> <p>**Numerous studies have compared powdery mildew resistance among modern cultivars. NC State University found 'David,' pictured above (top left), and 'Robert Poore' to be highly resistant to powdery mildew in warm, humid climates.</p>
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	
Water Requirements : Moist	<p>Plant in full sun, allow good air circulation (thin out stems as necessary), and avoid overhead watering to prevent/reduce powdery mildew**</p> <p>Mulch in summer to keep roots cool</p> <p>Cut to ground in early winter and place all plant material in trash to help prevent phlox bugs</p> <p>Use in perennial border, butterfly/bird garden, cottage garden, and cutting garden</p>
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a–8b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free, [Sunny Garden](#) and [Quarry Shade Garden](#) and by Elaine Mills (bottom), Arlington, VA