

Summer Phlox *Phlox paniculata*

Plant Type: Native Perennial Wildflower

Sun Exposure: Full Sun, Part Sun

Season of Interest: Summer

Bloom Time: Summer

Bloom Color: White, Pink, Lavender, Purple

Height: 24 to 36 in.

Spread: 24 in.

Spacing: 30 in.

Water Needs: Average

Maintenance: Deadhead

Soil Type: Clay, Loam

Soil pH: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Soil Drainage: Well Drained

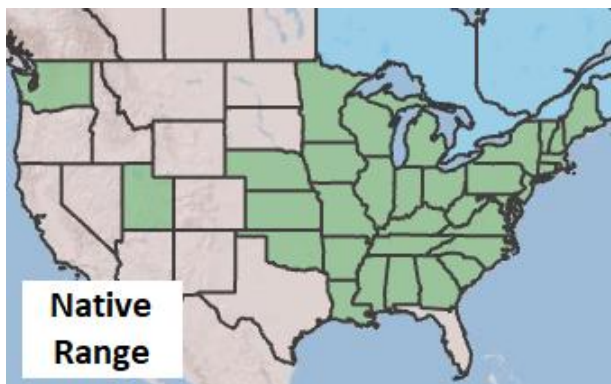
Pests: Slugs, Spider mites, Phlox bugs

Diseases: Powdery mildew, Root rot

Wildlife: Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds



Description: Summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) is a low maintenance plant that adds a burst of color and interest to the summer garden. The Phlox genus belongs to the Polemoniaceae, or "Jacob's ladder," family and garden phlox is valued especially for its large, long-lasting blooms. The flowers bear a mild fragrance and occur in a wide range of colors appearing in panicles at the tops of 2-to-3-foot stems. These perennials also attract hummingbirds and butterflies. As an additional bonus, their sturdy stems render them a great choice for cut flowers. Summer phlox grows in upright clumps, and it is a moderately tall perennial. The species name of *paniculata* refers to the "panicles" of blooms (flower heads) held atop its stalks. The foliage is also attractive but can be marred by powdery mildew. For more information see: plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phlox-paniculata.



Care and Growing Tips: Considering the value that garden phlox flowers add to a landscape, the care that they need is minimal. If located in a sunny spot and provided with a soil that drains well, they should thrive and come back year after year. Even their biggest problem, a disease known as powdery mildew, is rarely fatal but it can spoil their appearance in late summer and fall. Deadhead the spent flowers to prolong the blooming period. Regularly weed around your plant so that weeds do not sap its strength or rob it of the water it needs to get through the summer. Garden phlox attracts bees and other pollinating insects to the yard so you want to avoid spraying with insecticides or herbicides that can kill them.

Grow garden phlox in full sun in the North and partial sun in the South. This plant does best in fertile, moist soil with the biggest requirement being good drainage. Keep the soil evenly moist, but do not overwater. Avoid overhead watering. Point the nozzle of your garden hose, instead, at an angle that will direct the spray at ground level. Keeping the foliage dry will minimize problems with powdery mildew. This plant prefers a soil with moderate fertility. Fertilize garden phlox with compost each year in spring.