



What's Bloomin'



The following plants are those likely to be in flower at this time. The information given is intended to answer the questions: “Will this plant thrive in my garden? Do I have the best site and soil conditions for it? How long will it bloom?” For more information on the history of the gardens, ask inside the visitor center for The Gardens Site Bulletin.

Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*

Columbines thrive in full sun (with afternoon shade) or partial shade in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils. The early spring flowering period is brief; the foliage lasts through the summer and the plants self-sow to bloom the next season.



Lungwort *Pulmonaria saccharata*



The shade-loving Lungwort grows best in rich, evenly moist soil; the leaves wilt under dry, hot conditions. After spring bloom, the plants produce large-leaved, 1-foot-wide mounds. They can be divided after flowering and in early fall.

Moss Phlox *Phlox subulata*

The spring-blooming creeping phlox requires full sun and well-drained soil. It can be grown on slopes and in raised beds. It should be sheared back after flowering and can be increased by division in the fall.



Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum*



One of the easiest woodland flowers to grow, Geraniums prefer light to partial shade (but will tolerate full sun) rich loamy soil and moist to slightly dry conditions. They bloom late spring to early summer. The plants form wide mounds from a rhizome rootstock, but are not aggressive.

Kenilworth Ivy *Cymbalaria muralis*

The ivy with the tiny flowers trails over walls (muralis means “growing on walls”) and settles in stone crevices and on terraces. The plant grows – sometimes profusely – in sun or shade and, although it is an annual, will likely return the following spring.



Heartleaf Brunnera
Brunnera macrophylla



A site in partial to full shade with rich, evenly moist soil will produce the largest heart-shaped leaves. The plants go dormant in a drought but will reappear the following year. Brunnera can be divided after spring bloom; the plants also self-sow.

Astilbe
Astilbe 'Bridal Veil'

Astilbes are a vigorous, long-lived perennial – provided they have constantly moist, well-drained soil. They like partial shade with morning sun. Astilbes flower in late spring for two or three weeks. The faded blooms remain attractive much longer.



German Bearded Iris
Iris germanica



To grow well, Irises need full sun and average to rich, well-drained soil. Each flower stalk produces a succession of blooms, which lengthens the display to a couple of weeks. They form large clumps which can be divided as necessary, in mid-summer.

Bleeding Heart
Dicentra spectabilis

Bleeding Heart needs partial to full shade and moist, well-drained soil. They do not like wet feet. When the leaves turn yellow in early to mid-summer the plant should be cut to the ground. This leaves a gap in the summer border but the crowns remain viable and the plant should return the following spring.



Globeflower
Trollius x cultorum



Globeflower grows well in full sun or partial shade and rich, clayey soil. It needs constant moisture and is a good choice for a bog garden or the edge of a stream. Flowers last into summer and may re-bloom if cut back after the first flush.

Spiderwort
Tradescantia

Spiderworts are easy to grow – and hard to stop. They spread widely, forming a dense vegetative mass, even establishing colonies in other areas of the garden. They are difficult to eradicate. Spiderworts will rebloom later in the season if the plants are cut to the ground after spring flowering.



Foamflower
Tiarella wherryi



Native Foamflowers grow in damp woodlands; their cultivated cousins need the same rich, moist, slightly acid soil in partial to full shade. The species *T. wherryi* reaches 6-to-10 inches in height and slowly spreads to the same width.