



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.

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.



Japanese Iris *Iris ensata*



Blooming later than the Bearded and Siberian species, Japanese Iris extend the group's season into early summer. Colors vary from violet-blue to pink to wine-red. The plants form 2 to 3 feet wide clumps from short rhizomes. Japanese Iris like more acidic soil than the others (pH 5.5 to 6.5). They require constantly moist soil during the growing season and drier conditions in the winter.

Goatsbeard *Aruncus dioicus*

The native, shrub-sized Goatsbeard prefers partial shade and evenly moist soil; it will tolerate some sun if given enough water. Blooms last from spring to mid-summer. Plants spread by rhizomes to form large clumps.



Nepeta *Nepeta x faassenii*



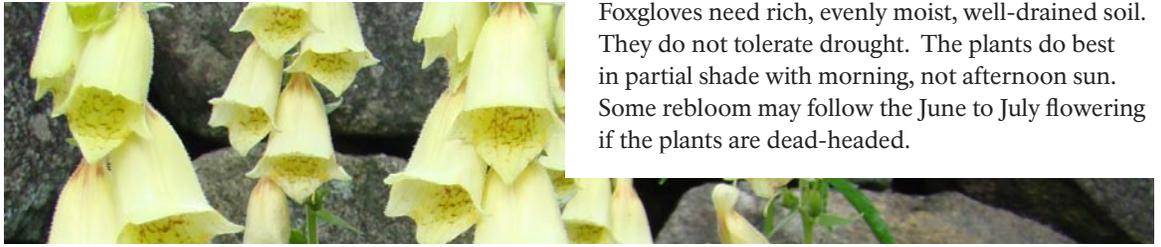
Nepeta grows well in full sun or light shade but a dry site is a necessity; damp soil can be fatal. The plants spread as wide as they are tall. If sheared back hard after the first bloom in early summer, they will respond with new foliage and bloom. The common name for Nepeta is catnip, but only one species, *Nepeta cataria*, is intoxicating to cats. All Nepetas have a pungent aroma, pleasant for everyone except deer, which avoid the plant.

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.



Foxglove
Digitalis sp.



Foxgloves need rich, evenly moist, well-drained soil. They do not tolerate drought. The plants do best in partial shade with morning, not afternoon sun. Some rebloom may follow the June to July flowering if the plants are dead-headed.

Snakeroot

Cimicifuga racemosa var. cordiflora

Snakeroot grows naturally in the moist, dappled shade of woodlands. It spreads generously when given the site it prefers. Snakeroot will grow in the sun if the soil is kept consistently moist and the plant is shaded in the afternoon. The flowers bloom from early to midsummer.



Salvia

Salvia officinalis 'Purple'



Salvias thrive in average to rich soil in shade or full sun with protection from summer afternoon heat. The soil should be kept evenly moist and have good drainage, but once established Salvias tend to be drought tolerant. Plants bloom from early to late midsummer. A site against a wall or fence is ideal.

Cranesbill

Geranium sanguineum

This Geranium thrives in full sun or partial shade and tolerates some drought. The plant forms wide mounds and blooms from spring into summer. After the flowers fade, the plants can be sheared to within an inch or two of the ground for rebloom.



Veronica

Veronica spicata



Veronica blooms from early to late summer, in average to rich soil, in full sun or partial shade. It can reach 3 feet and spread as wide. The plant is a little fussy about moisture; it has shallow roots and needs well-drained conditions, neither too wet nor too dry. Aside from that, it's an easy plant to grow.

Lavender

Lavandula angustifolia

Lavender likes full sun, although it will tolerate some shade. The soil can be poor-to-rich but it must be well-drained and dry; it will not grow in wet conditions. The summer-blooming Lavender is actually a small evergreen shrub. It's a little tender in Zones 5 and 6 – western Connecticut – and needs a protected site.



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.