

Weir Farm

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Weir Farm
National Historic Site

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.

Salvia 'Purple' *Salvia officinalis*

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. Once established, Salvias tend to be drought tolerant. Plants bloom from early to late midsummer. A site against a wall or fence is ideal.



Hollyhock *Alcea rosea*



These old garden favorites were planted in the Secret Garden during J. Alden Weir's time in Branchville. The two young Hollyhocks now in bloom near the Terrace Gardens are part of the ongoing preservation process of maintaining the historic character of Weir Farm. Hollyhocks grow well in average to moist well-drained soil in full sun, but they don't tolerate wet winter soils. They reach 6 to 8 feet and bloom from June to August. Subject to rust, leaf spot, and anthracnose, Hollyhock foliage can look tattered and unkempt.

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.



Tall Meadow Rue *Thalictrum rochebruneanum*



A shady site, especially during the hottest part of the day, with rich, moist soil, is ideal for Tall Meadow Rue. It will tolerate full sun if the soil remains constantly moist. The plants grow from clumps, emerge late in the spring and bloom for several weeks. Tall Meadow Rue also looks great planted in masses along a fence or stone wall.

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.



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.

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.



Trumpet Vine
Campsis radicans



A native plant, Trumpet Vine is drought tolerant, adaptable to heat and cold and easy to grow in any soil. Flowering is greatest in full sun. The plants become woody and heavy, so they need a strong support and pruning to control growth (take care that the flower buds located at the end of the stem or branch are not cut off). Hummingbirds and butterflies love the flowers.

Baby's Breath
Gypsophila

The plant with the tiny pink flowers on the terrace is a dwarf species of the familiar tall, white-flowered Baby's Breath. As this family member likes dry, rocky or sandy soil, it is perfect for filling in the spaces between stones. The perennial plant spreads itself around from early to midsummer. It can be divided in early spring or after it blooms.



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.

Clematis 'Davidiana'
Clematis heracleifolia

Clematis is better known for woody vines but the genus also contains a shrubby upright form, Tube Clematis. Plants can reach 2 to 3 feet and spread about 3 feet wide. Culture is the same for all Clematis: rich, well-drained soils and cool conditions with partial or dappled shade.



Astilbe 'Bridal Veil'
Astilbe



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.