



Mountain Bluet (*Centaurea montana*)

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This hardy perennial, which also goes by the name cornflower or bachelor's button, is native to European mountains and does well in the northern tier of the United States. A good choice for a cottage garden due to early bloom time and showy deep blue flowers atop unbranched stems with gray-green, lance shaped 7-10' lower leaves. The Genus name comes from the Greek word kentauros meaning centaur, with history extending back to ancient Greek mythology. The story is that when Chiron the Centaur was wounded by one of Hercules' poisoned arrows, he was cured by this herb's amazing healing powers. The flowers have been used through the ages to treat minor wounds, mouth ulcers and eye ailments. Today, extracts of the plant are used in shampoo and conditioners.

Type	Clump-forming perennial
Hardiness Zone	3 - 8
Sun	Full sun
Bloom Time	May to June
Height	1' - 2'
Spread	1' - 1.5'
Tolerance	Drought, dry soil, poor soil
Attracts	Bees and butterflies
Additional Features	May be damaged by deer

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well drained
- Soil pH: 6.2 - 7.2
- Type: poor or average fertility

Planting Recommendations

- Type: seed or nursery plants
- When to plant: sow late summer, plant seedlings in spring
- Depth of planting: surface sow, press gently into soil
- Mulching: not necessary
- Spacing: 24"
- Spread: 12" to 24" or more, control underground rhizomes
- Division: divide in spring or late summer every 2-3 years



Maintenance

- Watering: keep soil dry to medium
- Fertilization: not necessary
- Pinching/deadheading: prompt deadheading after flowering, cut back to lateral buds
- Annual maintenance: thin new shoots by 1/3 in spring, after spring bloom, cut plants back to basal growth for second bloom in late summer

Common Problems

Disease: rare problem with downy or powdery mildew, rust or mold

Insects: no serious insect problem

Resources

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

Questions or problems:” What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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