



Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

Sharon Bodie, UMN Extension Crow Wing County Master Gardener Volunteer

Phlox paniculata is a long-lived perennial that grows in clumps and can live for decades under good growing conditions. It is a showy plant providing color for as much as six weeks or more in the heat of summer. Plants have fragrant tubular flowers packed on dense terminal clusters, or panicles. Flowers come in a variety of colors ranging from pink-purple to white, both single and bicolor, and are excellent in cut flower arrangements. Leaves are pointed, elliptical, 4 - 6 inches long and deep green.

Phlox is also known as garden phlox, summer phlox, tall phlox and border phlox.

Type	Upright herbaceous perennial
Hardiness Zone	4 - 8
Sun	Full sun, at least 6 hours per day
Bloom Time	July to September
Height	2' - 4'
Spread	2' - 3'
Tolerance	Clay soil
Attracts	Birds, butterflies and hummingbirds
Additional Features	May be eaten by deer and rabbits

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: moist, well-drained
- Soil pH: prefers slightly alkaline soil
- Type: fertile, rich, organic soil
- Soil test: test every 3 to 5 years to determine if amendments and fertilizer are needed

Planting Recommendations

- Type: bare root, potted plants or seeds started indoors in late winter
- When to plant: spring after average date of last frost
- Depth of planting: plant root ball should be even with the top of the soil
- Mulching: necessary to keep root zone cool
- Spacing: 18 - 24" apart as plants need good air circulation



- Division/transplant tips: divide plants in the spring every 2-4 years

Maintenance

- Watering: average watering to maintain moist soil; avoid overhead watering
- Fertilization: light application of 10-10-10 in the spring and as plants begin to flower
- Staking: taller stems may need to be staked
- Pinching/deadheading: Remove faded flowers to prolong blooming season. If hybrid plants are allowed to reseed, they usually revert to the original (less desirable) plant. In early summer, plants may be cut back between 1/3 - 1/2 in size to produce a bushier plant.
- Annual maintenance: after killing frost cut plant back to the ground and apply a layer of mulch

Common Problems

Disease: powdery mildew, root rot

Insects: spider mites

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://extension.umn.edu>

<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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