



## 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.

### **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.



### **Forget-Me-Not** *Myosotis scorpioides*



Forget-Me-Not requires moist-to-wet soils and light shade for best performance. Following early spring bloom, the plants will spread about 1 foot. They can be divided after flowering.

### **English Primrose** *Primula vulgaris*

Cool shade and rich, moist soils are essential for Primroses; their ideal habitat is the Pacific Northwest. In the East, we compensate by keeping the plants mulched and constantly watered. They bloom in the spring and look bedraggled by midsummer, when the yellowed leaves can be cut off.



**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.



**Virginia Bluebells**  
*Mertensia pulmonarioides*



Under good conditions, sun or shade, evenly moist rich soil, Virginia Bluebells can grow 1-to-2 feet tall and spread 1 foot. The plants go dormant and disappear after spring bloom; the site needs to be protected so the plant can return next spring.



**Tree Peony**  
*Paeonia suffruticosa*



A Tree Peony makes a bold – and long-lived – statement in the garden. It needs neutral to slightly acid, organically rich soil. Dappled shade is best, as the blooms fade quickly in full sun. Unlike the clump-forming herbaceous Peony the Tree Peony is a deciduous shrub that is not cut to the ground in the 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.



**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.

**European Ginger**  
*Asarum europaeum*

Ginger is grown for its glossy, almost evergreen leaves and ability to thrive in deep shade and acidic soil. The plants form 1-foot-wide mounds. The single flower produced in early spring is sweet but hard to see; it lies on the ground under the leaves.



**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.

