

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH417



PHLOX

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Phlox
- Scientific name: *Phlox sp.*
- Native to North America and northeastern Asia
- Grows from 8-20'' tall
- Blooms all summer, from June until first frost
- 1'' flowers are made up of 5 petals and have a star-like appearance
- Flowers can be white, pink, yellow, purple, or mixed
- Leaves are 1-3'' long and narrowly oval with pointed ends

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade

- Prefers rich, loose, well-drained soil
- Should receive one inch of water per week
- Be conservative with fertilizer; too much nitrogen will promote disease and pests
- Use a 1-2'' layer of mulch to conserve moisture and protect roots in winter

PROPAGATION

- Most commonly propagated by division
- Divide in spring before new growth begins
- Each division should contain 3-5 shoots with roots attached
- Space plants 18'' apart

- Can also be propagated by stem cuttings
- Take 3-4'' cuttings from stems without flower buds
- Remove lower leaves and insert into moist potting media
- Transplant to the garden when roots have formed

DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating forms on leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
 - Reduce humidity and improve air circulation
 - Select resistant cultivars
- Spider mites
 - Upper leaf surfaces become stippled with yellow or red dots
 - Ensure plants are properly watered so they can withstand infestation
- Leaf spot (*Septoria phlogis*)
 - Brown or black spots disfigure leaves
 - Reduce leaf wetness
 - Remove heavily infected plants

CONSUMER CARE

- Remove faded flowers promptly to encourage new blooming
- Taller varieties may require staking
- Often used along the edges of walks and driveways
- Does not make a good ground cover

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Phlox maculata*
 - 'Flower Power': creamy white florets spotted with pink
- *Phlox paniculata*

- 'Becky Towe': coral-rose flowers, variegated foliage
- 'Blue Boy': closest to a true blue flower
- 'Bright Eyes': soft-pink flowers with red eyes
- 'David': white flowers
- 'Eva Cullum': pink flowers with red eyes
- 'Franz Schubert': lilac flowers
- 'Laura': purple flowers with white eyes
- 'Nicky': deep purple flowers
- 'Orange Perfection': bright orange-salmon flowers
- *Phlox stolonifera*
 - 'Sherwood Purple': deep bluish-purple flowers
- *Phlox subulata*
 - 'Candy Stripe': pink and white striped flowers
 - 'Crimson Beauty': deep rose red flowers
 - 'Emerald Blue': light blue flowers
 - 'Fort Hill': deep pink flowers
 - 'Millstream Daphne': clear pink flowers with dark eyes
 - 'Oakington Blue Eyes': sky blue flowers
 - 'Snowflake': white flowers

References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phlox>
<http://www.yardener.com/Phlox.html>
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG1119.html>

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