

**Common Names:**

Garden Phlox, Summer Phlox

**Plant Type:** Perennial**Light Requirements:**

Full sun - light shade

**Height:** 2-4 ft.**Bloom Time:** July-Sept**Hardiness Zones:** 4-8

## Phlox paniculata

Phlox paniculata is an upright, clump-forming herbaceous perennial in the Polemoniaceae (Jacob's Ladder or Phlox) family. It is native to the United States, from New York to Iowa, and south to Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas. This showy garden plant comes in shades of white, purple, and pink. Some cultivars feature bicolor blooms with a darker, central "eye". Many varieties are fragrant. Phlox is very attractive to hummingbirds and clearwing moths, who appreciate the nectar.

Phlox grows best in full sun to light shade and requires rich soil with consistent moisture. It tolerates clay soil but requires decent drainage to avoid root rot. Although it prefers areas with mild summers with lower humidity, is not particularly drought tolerant. Phlox needs to be planted with appropriate spacing and have its stems thinned out occasionally to avoid powdery mildew. Newer varieties of the species are bred with better resistance to this fungal disease. Tall varieties benefit from staking; their large clusters of blooms may flop if not supported. Plants can be sheared back by one-third in mid spring. This will slightly delay bloom time but result in a shorter, bushier plant.

References:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phlox-paniculata/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/flowers/tall-garden-phlox>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Phlox>