

# Creeping Phlox *Phlox subulata*

**Plant Type:** Native Perennial Wildflower  
**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun, Part Sun  
**Season of Interest:** Spring, Summer, Fall  
**Bloom Time:** Spring  
**Bloom Color:** White, Pink, Lavender, Purple  
**Height:** 4 to 6 in.  
**Spread:** 24 in.  
**Spacing:** 36 in.  
**Water Needs:** Average  
**Maintenance:** None  
**Soil Type:** Clay, Loam, Sandy, Rocky  
**Soil pH:** Acidic, Neutral  
**Soil Drainage:** Well Drained  
**Pests:** None  
**Diseases:** None  
**Wildlife:** Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds



**Description:** Creeping Phlox, also known as Thrift, makes a stunning addition to any garden or yard. With their spreading nature, you can plant a few creeping phlox plants and watch as the perennial plants slowly create a carpet of vibrant spring color. This phlox has prickly, needle-like leaves that produce a prolific blanket of spring blooms reaching about 6 inches tall.

The flowers tend to have dark markings toward the center and notched petals. Are you trying to fill unsightly spaces where nothing else will grow, then this is the plant for you. For more information see: [plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phlox-paniculata](http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phlox-paniculata).



**Care and Growing Tips:** Creeping phlox does not require highly fertile soil. However, it benefits from a slow-release, organic fertilizer in areas where soils are very depleted. Creeping phlox is relatively deer and pest-resistant. Annual pruning will ensure abundant blooms every spring, as well as help to keep disease at bay. As the plants age, dead growth accumulates underneath the upper layer of verdant, flowering stems. Pruning out the old, brittle growth can aid the plants in regenerating and reaching their full potential. Simply lift up the healthy top growth and use pruners to snip dead stems back to ground level.