

# Phlox subulata

## Moss Phlox, Moss-pink

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic



The creeping habit of Moss Phlox can form a carpet of spring flowers as breathtaking in a residential rock garden or sprawling over rock walls as on the mountain slopes and open woodlands of its natural Mid-Atlantic\* habitat. Its epithet and common name refer to its leaves—awl-shaped—and resembling a moss-like mat, respectively.

Ground Cover	Flowers En Masse and Close-up,** Foliage
Height: ¼–½ foot	
Spread: 1–2 feet	
Bloom Color: White, pink or rose with darker eye	   
Characteristics	
Mat-forming, <a href="#">evergreen</a> , herbaceous <a href="#">perennial</a>	
Linear, needle-like leaves <a href="#">opposite</a> to clustered on <a href="#">stem</a>	
Fragrant, tubular flowers w/ 5 notched lobes & <a href="#">pubescent calyxes</a> in terminal clusters ( <a href="#">cymes</a> ) March to June	
Inconspicuous seed <a href="#">capsules</a>	
Prostrate pubescent stems branch freely and can root at the <a href="#">nodes</a> ; reseeds in optimum conditions	
Attributes	
Tolerates stony soil, <a href="#">sandy soil</a> , dry soil, drought, dappled p.m. shade, erosion, air pollution, and salt	
No serious pests (although spider mites may appear during hot/dry weather and foliar nematodes during wet/humid weather) or diseases	
<a href="#">Deer</a> seldom damage but rabbits may eat foliage	
Many vibrantly colored <a href="#">cultivars</a> available	
Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained, neutral–slightly basic	<a href="#">Ficaria verna</a> - Lesser Celandine
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun	<a href="#">Ornithogalum species</a> - Star of Bethlehem
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Dry, Moist	<a href="#">Vinca minor</a> - Periwinkle
Cut stems by half after flowering to encourage denser growth and potential rebloom	
Use in borders and rock gardens and naturalized as ground cover and for erosion control	*Native to parts of MD and PA. In VA, it is locally frequent in the mountains (except far southwest) and infrequent in the Piedmont. In NoVA, it is native to Fairfax County.
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 3–9	**Cultivars 'Candy Stripe' and 'Emerald Blue.'

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Tyler Ormsby (top), Arlington, VA, by Mary Free, Shade Garden, and by Elaine Mills (foliage), U.S. National Arboretum



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