

## POLEMONIACEAE – PHLOX FAMILY

**Plant:** herbs; shrubs or rarely trees or vines

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, mostly entire but some lobed or pinnately/palmately divided; mostly opposite but some alternate or whorled; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect; 5 united and green sepals; usually a long and slender corolla tube, twisted in the bud, that flares into 5 flat lobes; most with 5 stamens and 3-pronged style hidden within corolla tube (exceptions occur); ovary superior, 3 carpels, 1 style, 3 stigmas, 1 to many ovules

**Fruit:** capsule mostly, usually 3-chambered

**Other:** many ornamentals; hybridization common; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 18+ genera; locally *Collomia*, *Gilia*, *Phlox* (phlox), *Polemonium* (Jacob's ladder)

## POLEMONIACEAE – PHLOX FAMILY

Standing-Cypress; *Ipomopsis rubra* (L.) Wherry

Cleft Phlox; *Phlox bifida* Beck

[Wild] Blue [Woodland] Phlox; *Phlox divaricata* L.

Annual Phlox; *Phlox drummondii* Hook.

Widflower [Mountain] Phlox; *Phlox latifolia* Michx.

Wild Sweet William [Spotted Phlox; Meadow Phlox]; *Phlox maculata* L.

Garden [Fall, Perennial] Phlox; *Phlox paniculata* L.

Downy Phlox; *Phlox pilosa* L.

Moss Phlox; *Phlox subulata* L.

Greek Valerian [Spreading Jacob's Ladder]; *Polemonium reptans* L. var. *reptans*

# Standing-Cypress

*Ipomopsis rubra* (L.) Wherry  
Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Lake Charles State Park, Lawrence County, Arkansas

Notes: flower tubular, 5 deep lobes, red with red-spotted interior; leaves alternate, deeply pinnate divided or lobed, segments linear to filiform (thread-like); spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]



# Cleft Phlox

*Phlox bifida* Beck  
Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)  
Brown County State Park,  
Brown County, Indiana



Notes: flower tubular with 5 deep lobes,  
lobes notched from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of lobe,  
blue or light violet to almost white; leaves  
narrowly lanceolate to somewhat linear,  
sharp-pointed; most of plant hairy,  
somewhat glandular (sticky); plant mostly  
prostrate but inflorescences erect; mostly  
in woods; early spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]



# [Wild] Blue [Woodland, Forest] Phlox

*Phlox divaricata* L.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Pokahan State Park, Steuben County, Indiana

Notes: flower tubular with 5 deep lobes, notched, blue to purple or white, flower tube glabrous, stamens not protruding (often deep in corolla tube); leaves oblong to lanceolate, not sharp-pointed, hairy; stem hairy; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



# Annual Phlox

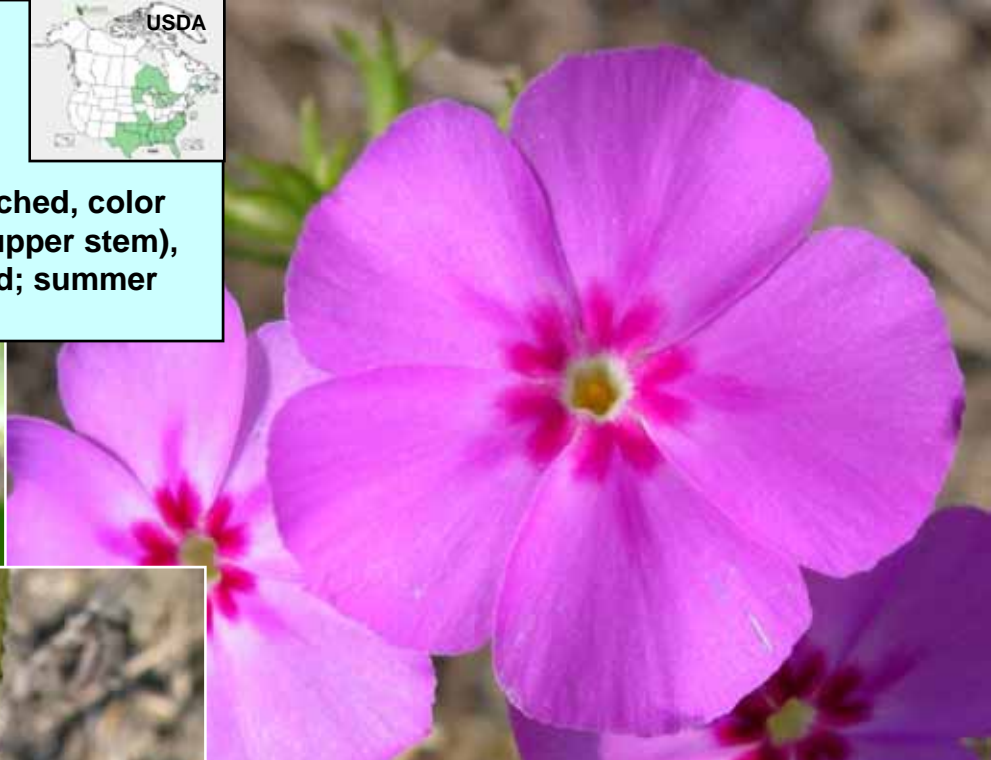
*Phlox drummondii* Hook.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Tybee Island, Georgia

Notes: flower tubular with 5 deep lobes, wedge-shaped, notched, color variable, stamens not protruding; leaves alternate (at least upper stem), often thick, sharp-pointed, hairy; stem hairy; often cultivated; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



# Wideflower [Mountain] Phlox

*Phlox latifolia* Michx.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas  
County, Ohio

Notes: flower tubular with 5 deep lobes, pink- to reddish- purple, corolla glabrous, up 3 cm, stamens even with or protruding tube, inflorescence wider than long, lower flowers on longer peduncles, pedicels and sepals finely pubescent; 4 (3-5) pairs of lanceolate leaves, sharp-pointed, sessile to clasping, no sub-marginal vein; late spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]



# Wild Sweet William [Spotted Phlox; Meadow Phlox]



*Phlox maculata* L.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Shawnee State Park, Scioto County, Ohio

Notes: flower tubular with 5 lobes, pink- to reddish-purple, peduncles mostly of same length, inflorescence longer than wide; many pairs of lanceolate leaves, sharp-pointed, sessile to clasping, no sub-marginal vein, upper leaves broadest near base; stem usually spotted; late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2007]



# Downy Phlox

*Phlox pilosa* L.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower tubular with 5 deep lobes, reddish-blue to purple, flower tube finely pubescent, stamens not protruding from corolla; leaves linear to lanceolate, sharp-pointed; whole plant downy pubescent; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]



# Garden [Fall, Perennial] Phlox

*Phlox paniculata* L.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower tubular with 5 lobes, pink to reddish-purple to white, corolla tube slightly hairy; leaves lanceolate with submarginal connecting vein (see below), cilia (hairs) usually along leaf margins; tall, erect plant; often cultivated (many colors); summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]



# Moss Phlox

*Phlox subulata* L.

Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Oak Openings Metropark,  
Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower tubular with 5 lobes, notched, pink to reddish-purple to white, corolla tube smooth, calyx hairy; leaves mostly linear or awl-shaped and may be dense, usually 1+ pair of opposite lanceolate leaves below inflorescence; plant sprawling but flowers mostly erect; spring

[V Max Brown, 2007]



# Greek Valerian

## [Spreading Jacob's Ladder]



*Polemonium reptans* L. var. *reptans*  
Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)  
Shawnee State Forest, Scioto County, Ohio  
Notes: 5-lobed flower, light to deep blue to purple, sepals 5-lobed with acute tips; leaves pinnate with 10 to 17 leaflets, elliptical to ovate; plant hairy, somewhat sprawling or reclining (spreading); woods; spring  
[V Max Brown, 2009]

