

PETRORHAGIA (*Caryophyllaceae*) Coat flower S. Europe, Asia Minor
saxifraga Z5 pink 25 cm x 40 cm ○ June-Sept

Extremely profuse flowering plants forming loose pillows, great performance in gravel gardens, rockeries, or the front of the border as long as the soil drains well in the winter time. Self seeding will occur under favorable conditions but seedlings are easily dealt with on a sunny day with a small hoe.

PEUCEDANUM (*Apiaceae*)

Another genus of underused umbellifers spicing that "natural feel" into a garden. Combined with any neighbor adding innocence, excitement and surprise to the plant community.

officinale Z6 yellow 200 cm x 80 cm ○ Aug-Sept

Native to north-western Europe, Hog's fennel prefers a moisture retentive soil and forms beautiful dense mounds of fine, filigreed, glossy, glabrous green leaves. Like the more tender *Ferula* sp. this will only form foliar growth for a number of years before the tall, stately flower stalk makes it's appearance, topped with bright yellow umbels. Although we haven't flowered this species yet in our garden, it has drawn ample attention from visitors in it's vegetative state. The foliage has held up well in garden bouquets. This species should not be monocarpic (die off) after flowering. Let's keep the fingers crossed.

verticillare Z6 yell/gree 250 cm x 120 cm ○ June-July

This monocarpic umbellifer from south-eastern Europe will grow robust, open clumps of blueish-green, bipinnate leaves for about three or four years before the soaring flower stalk appears, displaying rounded greenish-yellow umbels, up to 12 cm in diameter in early summer. Plenty of seed is formed but only a few will provide for a next generation.

PHLOX (*Polemoniaceae*)

carolina E. U.S.

— 'Bill Baker' Z5 lilac/pink 90 cm x 60 cm ○ May-June

Glabrous, glossy green, linear leaves grow along knotted stems and form a loose, slowly increasing clump of thin but sturdy stems, topped in late spring and early summer by mops of lilac-pink flowers. A good form not affected by mildew and looking green throughout summer.

'Minnie Pearl' Z5 white 35 cm x ~ ○ April-June

Another, this time natural hybrid, between *P. maculata* and possibly *P. glaberrima*, detected along a Mississippian roadside by the keen eye of a local plants woman. Clean white flowers appear in dense, rounded clusters from late April onwards on short sturdy stems that grow from a quickly spreading clump. The linear, pointed leaves are up to 5 cm long. Just recently introduced but already valued in our gardens for it's early flowering, pure color and resistance to disease and insects including slugs.

paniculata Z4 lilac 150 cm x 80 cm ○ July-Sept

The rarely encountered wild form, parent of the plethora of garden varieties offered, growing tall, upright stems topped with large, branched panicles of small lilac, fragrant, star-shaped flowers. A more refined and naturalistic character.

As a general note, important for all paniculata phlox and hybrids is a moisture retentive soil. This will prevent stress and combined, lessen the risk on powdery mildew. In regards to this also a location with good air circulation is of importance to keep the disfiguring fungus at bay. All forms offered here have been without stress and mildew in our gardens.

— 'Alba' Z4 white 140 cm x 80 cm ○ June-Sept

The rarer, pure white flowered form. Fragrant, stary flowers in large triangular panicles.

PANICULATA HYBRIDS:

'A' Z4 purple 120 cm x 80 cm ○ July-Aug

Small flowered dense panicles on compact, upright growing stems. The size of the panicles is the smallest of the hybrids offered. A hybrid of unknown origin.

'Blue Evening' Z4 lav/blue 130 cm x 90 cm ○ July-Aug

Large lavender- blue, wide petalled flowers that color almost true blue in the cool evening light are formed in large trusses on top of sturdy stems. Fragrant as the other hybrids.

'David' Z4 white 140 cm x 90 cm ○ July-Aug

A good, pure white, large flowered phlox not affected by mildew in our gardens. As with all hybrids, flowering can be extended and/or plants can be limited in height by cutting a third to half of the stems off in mid-June. As a result, the panicles will be a bit smaller.

'Speed Limit 45' Z4 pink 120 cm x 80 cm ○ July-Aug

Found by our dear friend Allen Bush of the former Holbrook Farm in Fletcher, North Carolina, alongside the road to the nursery at the base of a road sign on Fanning Bridge Road. The color is described as 'candy-cotton pink' with a darker, pinkish-red central eye. Our plants have never been affected by mildew.

'Utopia' Z4 rose 180 cm x 100 cm ○ July-Aug

A remarkable Dutch introduction from Mr. Jansen, very tall stems sporting large trusses of refreshing pale pink flowers flushed with a splash of lilac. The individual flowers are of the largest of all paniculata types. Very sturdy, reliable and mildew resistant. Makes good neighbors with *Eupatorium*, *Persicaria amplexicaule*, *Monarda*'s and taller grasses in the back of the border.

stolonifera

— 'Violet Queen' Z5 violet 30 cm x ~ ● May

Given a few years to settle in between and under deciduous shrubs and trees, this woodland phlox will create a dense foliar carpet with it's trailing stems that is most resistant to slugs and snails in our garden where other phloxes (*P. divaricata* cv's and other *P. stolonifera* cv's) hang on to dear life with the voracious slimy pests on their tails. Deep violet purple flowers on short stems work well with *Trilliums*, *Primula*'s, *Tiarella*, *Pulmonaria*'s, *Omphalodes*, *Asarum* and emerging *Arisaema*'s.

PHUOPSIS (*Rubiaceae*) Crosswort Caucasus-N.W.Iran

stylosa Z6 pink 20 cm x ~ ○●● June-Sept

(Syn. *Crucianella stylosa*) Textured like sweet woodruff, (*Asperula odorata*) this groundcovering plant with it's bright green, needle-like foliage that stands in whorls around the lax, brittle, square stems, will root at the nodes. Although the individual stems don't seem to have a lot of strength to them, they all direct themselves up and form a snug carpet that will not fall open during wild weather events. Occasional disturbance by weeding gardeners and curious dogs is quickly restored. The tiny flowers are of a reddish-pink color and they appear in dense, rounded, up-facing clusters approximately 4 cm across atop the stems. The long protruding club-shaped styles remind one of a finely arranged pincushion. Crosswort has been bringing us into trouble more than once. We have had to explain, amongst others, to a visiting police officer that the marihuana-like smell she detected, was exuded by the foliage and not by some side crop (where Langley has built a world-wide reputation for). This smell is hardly detected when hovering your nose closely above the colony but wafts off and on in poignant clouds across the garden. Best used against forest edges and between foundation plantings of ferns and smaller shrubs away from the patio.