

ABOUT THESE TIMES

Fifteen years of weekly notes

The flowering times in this guide are averages, drawn from weekly data collected over more than 15 years in the Highlands Botanical Gardens.

Some species are highly site-specific, and bloom earlier or later with exposure, slope and elevation. Even so, these times should be representative for the Highlands Plateau and, more broadly, for the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

The species listed are native wildflowers used in landscaping and available from nurseries.

READING THE CHART

- Weeks in flower. Each month is divided into four.
- Grows in sun
- Grows in part shade
- Grows in shade

EITHER SIDE OF THE CHART

The weekly record runs from April through September. Before it begins, look for Oconee Bell in March. In winter, look for American Wintergreen, Skunk Cabbage and American Witch-Hazel.

Flowering times compiled for the Highlands Botanical Gardens by Jeremy Schewe, Robert Wyatt and William Wykle. Financial support for the Highlands Botanical Gardens comes from Western Carolina University, the Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc., grants, donations and proceeds from annual events.

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HIGHLANDS BOTANICAL GARDENS

Flowering Times

A month-by-month guide to the native wildflowers of the Highlands Plateau

A companion to the Trail Guide.

HIGHLANDS BIOLOGICAL STATION

THROUGH THE YEAR

Season by season

Plants to look for along the trails, from the first flowers of March to the witch-hazel of winter.

Something is in flower in the gardens for most of the year. The photographs here are a place to begin. Open the guide fully for the flowering times of ninety-one native wildflowers, week by week from April to September.

SPRING



Robin's Plantain
Erigeron pulchellus var. pulchellus
ASTERACEAE



Dwarf Crested Iris
Iris cristata
IRIDACEAE
BLOOMS MAY



Golden Ragwort
Packera aurea
ASTERACEAE

SUMMER



Crimson Bee Balm
Monarda didyma
LAMIACEAE
BLOOMS JULY–AUGUST



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
APOCYNACEAE



Green and Gold
Chrysogonum virginianum
ASTERACEAE
BLOOMS LATE APRIL–JULY



Rattlesnake Master
Eryngium yuccifolium var. yuccifolium
APIACEAE



Blazing Star
Liatris spicata
ASTERACEAE
BLOOMS LATE JULY–AUGUST



Foxglove Beardtongue
Penstemon digitalis
PLANTAGINACEAE

THREE RARE PLANTS



Oconee Bell
Shortia galacifolia
DIAPENSIACEAE
BLOOMS MARCH



Swamp Pink
Helonias bullata
LILIACEAE
BLOOMS APRIL



Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia purpurea var. montana
SARRACENIACEAE
BLOOMS JUNE–JULY

FALL



Appalachian Turtlehead
Chelone lyonii
PLANTAGINACEAE



Cutleaf Coneflower
Rudbeckia laciniata
ASTERACEAE
BLOOMS SEPTEMBER



Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed
Eutrochium maculatum var. maculatum
ASTERACEAE
BLOOMS LATE AUGUST–SEPTEMBER



Pickerelweed
Pontederia cordata
PONTEDERIACEAE



Grass-of-Parnassus
Parnassia asarifolia
CELASTRACEAE



Granite Dome Goldenrod
Solidago simulans
ASTERACEAE

WINTER



American Wintergreen
Gaultheria procumbens
ERICACEAE



Skunk Cabbage
Symplocarpus foetidus
ARACEAE



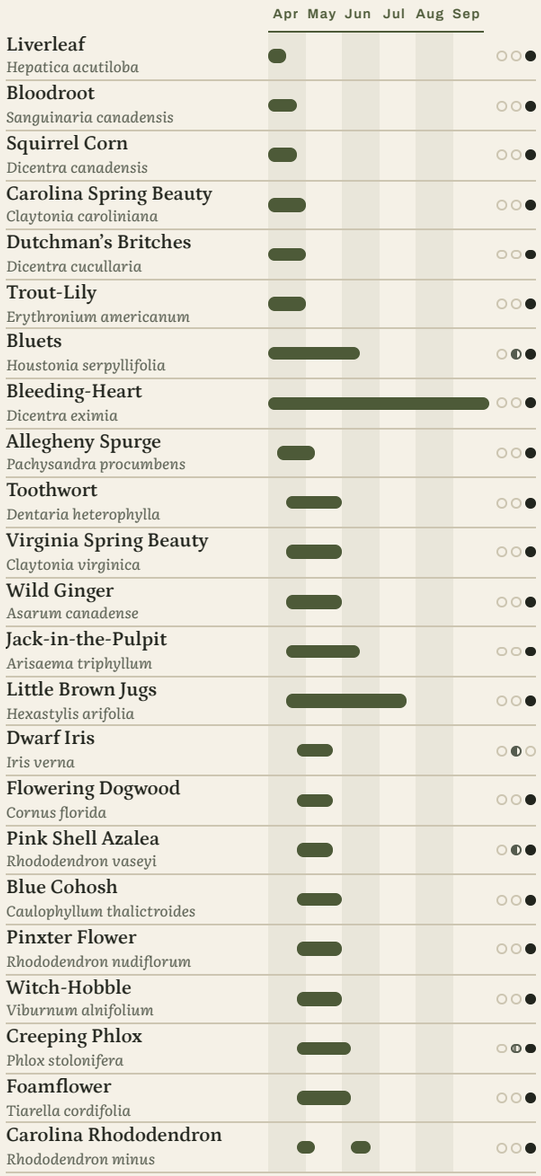
American Witch-Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana
HAMAMELIDACEAE

The gardens are a living museum of labeled plant specimens. Please stay on the marked trails, and do not pick or remove any plant material.

FLOWERING TIMES

What opens, and when

Ninety-one native wildflowers, in the order they come into bloom, beginning in April.



FIRST FLOWERS

Late April to June



FIRST FLOWERS

June to July



FIRST FLOWERS

July to September

