

SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA: A CHECKLIST

This checklist was prepared to provide assistance in the identification of spring flora in Northern Virginia. Northern Virginia is defined as Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties. Spring-blooming herbaceous species as well as showy, spring-blooming trees and shrubs are included in this list. Species that begin blooming in late May but have their main blooming period extending into summer are not included.

The checklist is divided into monocotyledons and dicotyledons with an alphabetical arrangement of family, genera, and species. Common names as well as scientific names are provided.

The nomenclature used in this checklist, with minor exceptions, is consistent with the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* by A. M. Harvill, Jr., Ted R. Bradley, Charles E. Stevens, and Donna M. E. Ware. A complete list of references used in preparing this work is included at the end of the checklist.

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Marion C. Blois
Asst. Prof. of Biology
Northern Virginia
Community College –
Manassas Campus

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**SPRING WILDFLOWERS of NORTHERN
VIRGINIA: A CHECKLIST**
Scientific names circa 1985
Compiled by Marion Lobstein

MONOCOTS

Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis Family)

Hypoxis hirsuta - Yellow Stargrass
Leucojum aestivum - Snowflake
Narcissus incomparabilis - Daffodil
N. poeticus - Pheasant-eye Daffodil
N. pseudo-narcissus - Buttercup Daffodil
N. tazetta - Tazetta Daffodil, Bunch Daffodil

Araceae (Arum Family)

Acorus calamus - Sweetflag
Arisaema dracontium - Green Dragon
A. triphyllum - Jack-in-the-pulpit
Orontium aquaticum - Golden Club
Peltandra virginica - Arrow Arum
Symplocarpus foetidus - Skunk Cabbage

Commelinaceae (Spiderwort Family)

Tradescantia ohiensis - Glaucous Spiderwort
T. virginiana - Virginia Spiderwort

Dioscoreaceae (Yam Family)

Dioscorea villosa - Wild Yam

Iridaceae (Iris Family)

Iris cristata - Dwarf Crested Iris
I. prismatica - Slender Blue Iris
I. pseudacorus - Yellow Flag
I. verna - Spring Iris
I. versicolor - Blue Iris
I. virginica - Virginia Blue Iris
Sisyrinchium angustifolium - Blue-eyed Grass
S. arenicola - Coastal Plain Blue-eyed Grass
S. mucronatum - Slender Blue-eyed Grass

Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Aletris farinosa - Colicroot
Allium canadense - Wild Onion

Asparagus officinalis - Asparagus
Chamaelirium luteum - Devil's-bit
Convallaria majalis - Lily-of-the-valley
Erythronium albidum - White Troutlily
E. americanum - Yellow Troutlily
Maianthemum canadense - Canada Mayflower
Medeola virginiana - Indian Cucumber
Muscari racemosum - Grape Hyacinth
Ornithogalum umbellatum - Star-of-Bethlehem
Polygonatum biflorum - Smooth Solomon's Seal
P. canaliculatum - Great Solomon's Seal
Smilacina racemosa - False Solomon's Seal
S. stellata - Starry False Solomon's Seal
Smilax glauca - Glaucous-leaved Greenbriar
S. herbacea - Carrion Flower
S. rotundifolia - Common Greenbriar
S. tamnoides - Hispid Greenbriar
Trillium erectum - Wake Robin Trillium
T. grandiflorum - Large-flowered Trillium
T. sessile - Sessile Trillium
Uvularia perfoliata - Perfoliated Bellwort
U. sessilifolia - Sessile-leaved Bellwort
Veratrum viride - False Hellebore

Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)

Aplectrum hyemale - Puttyroot Orchid
Corallorhiza wisteriana - Spring Coralroot
Cypripedium acaule - Pink Lady's Slipper
C. calceolus - Yellow Lady's Slipper
Habenaria flava - Pale Green Orchis
H. viridis - Long-bracted Habenaria
Isotria medeoloides - Small Whorled Pogonia
I. verticillata - Large Whorled Pogonia
Liparis liliifolia - Lily-leaved Twayblade
L. loeselii - Loesel's Twayblade
Orchis spectabilis - Showy Orchis
Spiranthes lucida - Shining Ladies'-tresses
S. praecox - Grass-leaved Ladies'-tresses
S. vernalis - Spring Ladies'-tresses

Typhaceae (Cattail Family)

Typha latifolia - Broad-leaved Cattail

DICOTS

Aceraceae (Maple Family)

Acer negundo - Boxelder
A. platanoides - Norway Maple
A. rubrum - Red Maple
A. saccharinum - Silver Maple
A. saccharum - Sugar Maple

Amaranthaceae (Amaranth Family)

Alternanthera philoxeroides - Alligator-weed

Anacardiaceae (Cashew Family)

Rhus aromatica - Fragrant Sumac
R. radicans - Poison Ivy
R. toxicodendron - Poison Oak
R. vernix - Poison Sumac

Annonaceae (Custard Apple Family)

Asimina triloba - Pawpaw

Apiaceae (Parsley/Carrot Family)

Chaerophyllum procumbens - Spreading Chervil
C. tainturieri - Wild Chervil
Cryptotaenia canadensis - Honewort
Eriogonum bulbosum - Harbinger-of-spring
Hydrocotyle sibiricoides - Lawn Water-penny
Osmorhiza claytonii - Hairy Sweet Cicely
O. longistylis - Smooth Sweet Cicely, Aniseroot
Sanicula canadensis - Black Snakeroot
S. gregaria - Clustered Snakeroot
S. marilandica - Maryland Black Snakeroot
Taenidia integerrima - Yellow Pimpernel
Thaspium barbinode - Hairy-jointed Meadow-parsnip
Zizia aptera - Heart-leaved Meadow-parsnip
Z. aurea - Golden Alexanders

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

Apocynum cannabinum - Dogbane
Vinca major - Wide-leaved Periwinkle
V. minor - Periwinkle

Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Ilex decidua - Possum Haw
I. opaca - American Holly
I. verticillata - Winterberry

Araliaceae (Ginseng Family)

Aralia nudicaulis - Wild Sarsaparilla
Panax trifolium - Dwarf Ginseng

Aristolochiaceae (Birthwort Family)

Aristolochia serpentaria - Birthwort
Asarum canadense - Wild Ginger
Hexastylis virginica - Virginia Heartleaf

Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed Family)

Asclepias amplexicaulis - Clasping Milkweed
A. quadrifolia - Four-leaved Milkweed
A. variegata - White Milkweed

Asteraceae (Aster/Composite Family)

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow
Antennaria neglecta - Field Pussytoes
A. plantaginifolia - Plantain-leaved Pussytoes
A. solitaria - Solitary Pussytoes
A. virginica - Virginia Pussytoes
Anthemis arvensis - Field Chamomile
Arnica acaulis - Leopard's-bane
Centaurea cyanus - Bachelor Buttons
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum - Ox-eye Daisy
Chrysogonum virginianum - Green and Gold
Cnicus benedictus - Blessed Thistle
Coreopsis auriculata - Running Tickseed
C. lanceolata - Lance-leaf Coreopsis
Crepis pulchra - Hawk's-beard
Erigeron annuus - White-top, Daisy Fleabane
E. philadelphicus - Common or Philadelphia Fleabane
E. pulchellus - Robin's Plantain
E. strigosus - Daisy Fleabane
Filago vulgaris - Herba Impia, Common Cudweed
Hieracium pratense - King Devil
H. venosus - Rattlesnake-weed
Hypochaeris radicata - Cat's Ear
Krigia dandelion - Potato Dandelion
K. virginica - Dwarf Dandelion
Pyrrhopappus carolinianus - False Dandelion

Senecio aureus - Golden Ragwort

S. obovatus - Round-leaf Ragwort
S. pauperculus - Balsam Ragwort
S. plattensis - Prairie Ragwort
S. tomentosus - Woolly Ragwort
S. vulgaris - Common Groundsel
Taraxacum erythrospermum - Red-seeded Dandelion
T. officinale - Common Dandelion
Tragopogon dubius - Goat's-beard
T. porrifolius - Purple Goat's-beard
Tussilago farfara - Coltsfoot

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Caulophyllum thalictroides - Blue Cohosh
Jeffersonia diphylla - Twinleaf
Podophyllum peltatum - Mayapple

Bignoniaceae (Bignonia Family)

Bignonia capreolata - Cross Vine
Catalpa speciosa - Cigar Tree

Boraginaceae (Borage/Forget-me-not Family)

Cynoglossum officinale - Common Hound's-tongue
C. virginianum - Wild Comfrey
Lithospermum arvense - Corn Gromwell
L. latifolium - American Gromwell
Mertensia virginica - Virginia Bluebells
Myosotis laxa - Smaller Forget-me-not
M. macrosperma - White Forget-me-not
M. micrantha - Blue Scorpion Grass
M. scorpioides - True Forget-me-not
M. verna - Spring Scorpion Grass
Onosmodium virginianum - False Gromwell

Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

Alliaria officinalis - Garlic Mustard
Arabidopsis thaliana - Mouse-ear Cress
Arabis canadensis - Sicklepod
A. laevigata - Smooth Rockcress
A. lyrata - Lyre-leaf Rockcress
A. patens - Spreading Rockcress
A. perstellata (shortii) - Stellate Rockcress
Barbarea verna - Spring Cress
B. vulgaris - Yellow Rocket
Brassica campestris - Field Mustard

B. kaber - Charlock

Camelina microcarpa - False Flax
Capsella bursa-pastoris - Shepherd's-purse
Cardamine bulbosa - Spring Cress
C. douglassii - Purple Cress
C. hirsuta - Hairy Bittercress
C. parviflora - Sand Cress
C. pennsylvanica - Pennsylvania Bittercress
Coronopus didymus - Lesser Swine Cress
Dentaria heterophylla - Slender Toothwort
D. laciniata - Cutleaf Toothwort
Descurainia sophia - Tansy Mustard
Draba ramosissima - Rocktwist
D. verna - Whitlow Grass
Hesperis matronalis - Dame's Rocket
Lepidium campestre - Field Cress
L. virginicum - Poor Man's Peppergrass
Nasturtium officinale - Watercress
Raphanus raphanistrum - Wild Radish
Rorippa palustris - Marsh Yellow Cress
R. sylvestris - Creeping Yellow Cress
Sibara virginica - Virginia Cress
Sisymbrium altissimum - Tumble Mustard
S. officinale - Hedge Mustard
Teesdalia nudicaulis - Shepherd's Cress
Thlaspi arvense - Field Pennycress
T. perfoliatum - Perfoliate Pennycress

Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family)

Lonicera japonica - Japanese Honeysuckle
L. morrowii - Morrow's Honeysuckle
L. sempervirens - Coral Honeysuckle
Sambucus canadensis - Elderberry
S. pubens - Red Elderberry
Triosteum angustifolium - Feverwort
T. perfoliatum - Horse Gentian
Viburnum acerifolium - Maple-leaf Viburnum
V. dentatum - Arrowwood
V. prunifolium - Black Haw

Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family)

Arenaria serpyllifolia - Sandwort
Cerastium arvense - Field Chickweed
C. brachypetalum - Mouse-ear Chickweed
C. glomeratum - Sticky Mouse-ear Chickweed

<i>C. nutans</i> - Nodding Chickweed	<i>M. sativa</i> - Alfalfa	Lauraceae (Laurel Family)
<i>Dianthus armeria</i> - Deptford Pink	<i>Melilotus alba</i> - White Sweet Clover	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> - Spicebush
<i>Sagina decumbens</i> - Pearlwort	<i>M. officinalis</i> - Yellow Sweet Clover	<i>Sassafras albidum</i> - Sassafras
<i>Silene antirrhina</i> - Sleepy Catchfly	<i>Robina pseudo-acacia</i> - Black Locust	Magnoliaceae (Magnolia Family)
<i>S. caroliniana</i> - Wild Pink	<i>Trifolium agrarium</i> - Yellow Hop Clover	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> - Tulip Poplar
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> - Lesser Stitchwort	<i>T. arvense</i> - Rabbitfoot Clover	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i> - Umbrella Tree
<i>S. media</i> - Common Chickweed	<i>T. campestre</i> - Low Hop Clover	Oleaceae (Olive Family)
<i>S. pubera</i> - Giant or Star Chickweed	<i>T. dubium</i> - Least Hop Clover	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> - Fringe-tree
Celastraceae (Stafftree Family)	<i>T. hybridum</i> - Alsike Clover	Onagraceae (Evening-primrose Family)
<i>Celastrus scandens</i> - Asiatic Bittersweet	<i>T. pratense</i> - Red Clover	<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i> - Narrow-leaved Sundrops
<i>Euonymus americanus</i> - Strawberry-bush	<i>T. repens</i> - White Clover	<i>O. laciniata</i> - Cut-leaved Evening Primrose
Convolvulaceae (Morning-glory Family)	<i>Vicia angustifolia</i> - Narrow-leaved Vetch	Orobanchaceae (Broom-rape Family)
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> - Field Bindweed	<i>V. caroliniana</i> - Wood Vetch	<i>Conopholis americana</i> - Cancer-root
Cornaceae (Dogwood Family)	<i>V. sativa</i> - Spring Vetch	<i>Orobanche minor</i> - One-flowered Cancer-root
<i>Cornus amomum</i> - Silky Dogwood	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> - Wisteria	Oxalidaceae (Wood-sorrel Family)
<i>C. florida</i> - Flowering Dogwood	Fumariaceae (Fumitory Family)	<i>Oxalis stricta</i> - Yellow Wood-sorrel
Crassulaceae (Sedum Family)	<i>Corydalis flavula</i> - Yellow Corydalis	<i>O. violacea</i> - Violet Wood-sorrel
<i>Sedum ternatum</i> - Wild Stonecrop	<i>Dicentra canadensis</i> - Squirrel-corn	Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)
Ericaceae (Heath Family)	<i>D. cucullaria</i> - Dutchman's-breeches	<i>Chelidonium majus</i> - Celandine Poppy
<i>Epigaea repens</i> - Trailing Arbutus	Gentianaceae (Gentian Family)	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> - Bloodroot
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> - Black Huckleberry	<i>Obolaria virginica</i> - Pennywort	Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> - Mountain Laurel	Geraniaceae (Geranium Family)	<i>Phlox divaricata</i> - Blue Phlox
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i> - Fetterbush	<i>Geranium carolinianum</i> - Carolina Cranesbill	<i>P. pilosa</i> - Downy Phlox
<i>Lyonia ligustrina</i> - Maleberry	<i>G. maculatum</i> - Wild Geranium	<i>P. subulata</i> - Moss Phlox
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i> - Wild Azalea	Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf Family)	Polygalaceae (Milkwort Family)
<i>R. nudiflorum</i> - Pinxter Flower	<i>Ellisia nyctelea</i> - Nocturnal Ellisia	<i>Polygala senega</i> - Seneca Snakeroot
<i>R. viscosum</i> - Swamp Azalea	<i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i> - Broad-leaved Waterleaf	Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family)
<i>Vaccinium atrococtum</i> - Black Highbush Blueberry	<i>H. virginianum</i> - Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> - Sheep Sorrel
<i>V. corymbosum</i> - Highbush Blueberry	<i>Phacelia dubia</i> - Small-flowered Phacelia	<i>R. altissimus</i> - Swamp Dock
<i>V. stamineum</i> - Deerberry	Lamiaceae (Mint Family)	Portulacaceae (Portulaca Family)
<i>V. vacillans</i> - Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> - Bugleweed	<i>Claytonia virginica</i> - Spring Beauty
Euphorbiaceae (Spurge Family)	<i>Glecoma hederacea</i> - Ground-ivy	Primulaceae (Primrose Family)
<i>Euphorbia commutata</i> - Wood Spurge	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> - Henbit	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> - Scarlet Pimpernel
Fabaceae (Pea Family)	<i>L. purpureum</i> - Purple Dead-nettle	<i>Trientalis borealis</i> - Star Flower
<i>Baptisia australis</i> - Blue False Indigo	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> - Self-heal, Heal-all	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> - Redbud	<i>Salvia lyrata</i> - Lyre-leaved Sage	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> - Honey Locust	<i>Scutellaria elliptica</i> - Hairy Skullcap	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> - Black Medic	<i>S. integrifolia</i> - Large Skullcap	
	<i>S. nervosa</i> - Veined Skullcap	
	<i>S. serrata</i> - Showy Skullcap	

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

Anemone quinquefolia - Wood Anemone
Aquilegia canadensis - Columbine
Clematis viorna - Leather Flower
Hepatica americana - Liverleaf, Round-leaf Hepatica
Ranunculus abortivus - Kidney-leaved Buttercup
R. acris - Tall Meadow Buttercup
R. bulbosus - Bulbous Buttercup
R. hispidus - Hairy Buttercup
R. recurvatus - Hooked Buttercup
R. sceleratus - Cursed Buttercup
Thalictrum thalictroides - Rue-anemone

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Ceanothus americanus - New Jersey Tea

Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Amelanchier arborea - Downy Shadbush
A. canadensis - Swamp Shadbush
A. sanguinea - Round-leaf Shadbush
Aruncus dioicus - Goatsbeard
Duchesnea indica - False or Indian Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana - Wild Strawberry
Potentilla canadensis - Common Cinquefoil
P. recta - Rough Cinquefoil
P. simplex - Cinquefoil
Rosa carolina - Pasture Rose
R. multiflora - Multiflora Rose
Rubus spp. - Blackberry spp.

Rubiaceae (Madder Family)

Galium aparine - Cleavers, Bedstraw
G. circaezans - Wild Licorice
G. mollugo - White Bedstraw
G. tinctorium - Clayton's Bedstraw
G. triflorum - Sweet-scented Bedstraw
Houstonia caerulea - Common Bluets
H. longifolia - Long-leaved Summer Bluets
H. purpurea - Large Summer Bluets
Mitchella repens - Partridge-berry

Santalaceae (Sandalwood Family)

Comandra umbellata - Bastard Toadflax

Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Heuchera americana - Alumroot
Hydrangea arborescens - Wild Hydrangea
Saxifraga virginensis - Virginia Saxifrage
Tiarella cordifolia - Foamflower

Scrophulariaceae (Snapdragon Family)

Paulownia tomentosa - Princess Tree
Penstemon laevigatus - Smooth Beardtongue
Veronica agrestis - Field Speedwell
V. arvensis - Corn Speedwell
V. hederifolia - Ivy-leaved Speedwell
V. officinalis - Common Speedwell
V. peregrina - Purslane Speedwell
V. persica - Bird's-eye Speedwell

Solanaceae (Nightshade Family)

Solanum carolinense - Horse Nettle

Staphleaceae (Bladdernut Family)

Staphylea trifolia - Bladdernut

Thymelaeaceae (Mezereum/Daphne Family)

Dirca palustris - Leatherwood

Valerianaceae (Valerian Family)

Valeriana pauciflora - Large-flowered Valerian

Verbenaceae (Vervain Family)

Lippia lanceolata - Fog-fruit, Frog-fruit

Violaceae (Violet Family)

Viola palmata - Palmate Violet
V. papilionacea - Common Blue Violet
V. papilionacea form *albiflora* - Confederate Violet
V. pensylvanica - Smooth Yellow Violet
V. pubescens - Downy Yellow Violet
V. sagittata - Arrow-leaf Violet
V. striata - Cream Violet
V. triloba - Three-lobed Violet

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