

## Featured Perennial

# *Phlox subulata* – Creeping Phlox, Moss Phlox

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Jared's Nursery Gift & Garden



Photo Credit: Keith A. Williamson

<b>Botanic name:</b>	<i>Phlox subulata</i>
<b>Common name:</b>	Creeping Phlox or Moss Phlox
<b>Height:</b>	4 - 6 inches
<b>Spread:</b>	18 - 24 inches
<b>Light:</b>	Full sun to part shade
<b>Water:</b>	Average watering, but very adaptable
<b>Soil:</b>	Average garden soil
<b>Growth Habit:</b>	Low, spreading
<b>How to use:</b>	Groundcover

Creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*) is one of the joys of spring. How lovely to see a mass of bright pink, lavender, blue or white blooming in combination with tulips, crocus or daffodils. It's one of the signals that spring is truly here!

The best time to plant, divide, or transplant creeping phlox is in the spring. Choose a location in full sun, although part shade can work as well. Drainage is important, so don't choose a location that stays wet. Gardening in Colorado means amending your soil and phlox is without exception. Working compost or sphagnum peat into the soil as you plant benefits plants by loosening heavy clay, or by helping sandy soil to retain moisture. If you are planting a large area and want them to fill in quickly, space plants about 12" apart. For those with more patience, creeping phlox will eventually reach 18-24" or more in diameter, but they are not terribly quick growers.

After plants are finished blooming in the spring, give them a haircut and trim off dead flowers and straggly stems. Doing this adds the benefit of encouraging foliage to become thicker and more compact. Creeping phlox is somewhat evergreen and the foliage will add some color to your gardens during the winter months when most everything else is brown.



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Some of the best uses for creeping phlox include groundcover, erosion control, and plantings in rock gardens. They do well when planted where they can spill over a rock wall, or tumble around rocks in a garden.



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