

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Look for it now in southwest Ohio!

Spring 2022



*Dwarf Purple Larkspur, flower and leaves. Photo by Dave Woehr.*

## Dwarf Purple Larkspur (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)

By Dave Woehr, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

The Dwarf Larkspur is a native wildflower that resembles the common horticultural delphiniums often seen in home gardens. It is found in deciduous woodlands offering moderate moisture and partial shade. Towering a foot or more in height, it appears as a spike with loosely spaced flowers that are a deep purple, occasionally seen as fading to light blue or even white. Each flower on the spike is up to an inch in diameter and features five petal-like sepals and a long nectar spur that angles upward behind the rest of the flower. Basal leaves are up to 4" long and across. They are palmately cleft into about five deep lobes, which are in turn divided into two to three shallow secondary lobes and may have a few dentate teeth along the margins. The foliage of Dwarf Larkspur is toxic to most mammalian herbivores. The plant not only reproduces from seeds having been pollinated by bees and hummingbirds, but also colonizes via offsets from its tuberous root system.

[Hisey Park](#), located outside Waynesville at 5443 Middletown Rd., Corwin, OH 45068, is a wildflower hot spot! To learn more about the spring ephemerals you may see, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's [Spring Wildflowers of Ohio Field Guide](#) and check out their [weekly report](#) to see what is currently in bloom.