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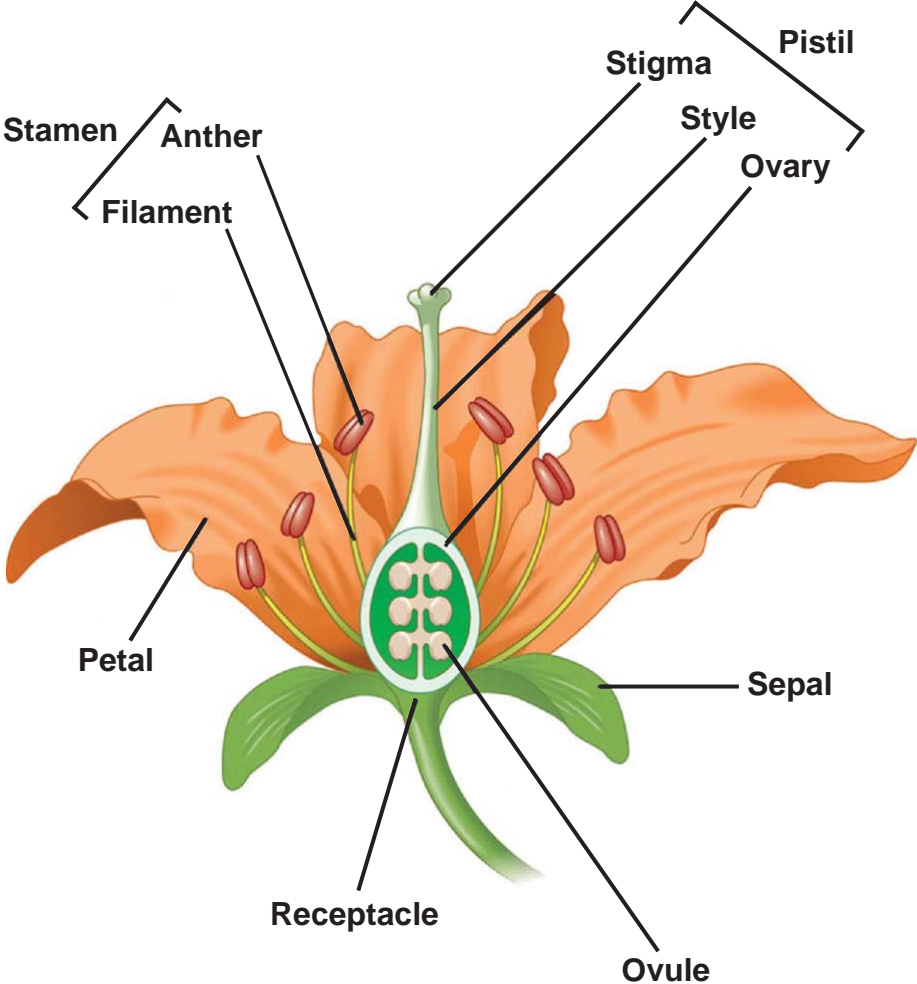
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# FLOWER PARTS



## DANDELION

(*Taraxacum officinale*)



This common weed, perhaps the most familiar flowering plant in the State, is an introduction

from Europe. The common name is a corruption of the French, dent de lion (lion's tooth), name which probably refers to the jagged edges of the leaves. A name of similar significance is used in most European countries. They may be found in bloom every month in the year.

## DAFFODIL

(*Narcissus*)

The daffodil is an ornamental plant which is often found on abandoned home sites. It is not a true wildflower, but it is often found in places which are reverting to a wild condition.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Flora of West Virginia by P. D. Strasbaugh and Earl L. Core. W. Va. University Bookstore.
2. Spring Wildflowers by Earl L. Core. W. Va. University and W. Va. Dept. of Natural Resources.
3. Wildflowers of the Alleghenies by Joseph E. Harned. (This book is out of print, but available in most libraries).



# West Virginia Spring Wildflowers

As soon as the winter snows have melted, and continuing into late autumn, there is a colorful procession of wildflowers in the mountains of West Virginia. This brochure provides helpful information for identifying some of West Virginia's spring wildflowers.

## SKUNK CABBAGE

(*Symplocarpus foetidus*)



Grows throughout the State and is often found in swampy or boggy ground as early as February. Its unpleasant

odor attracts large numbers of small flies and other insects which pollinate its flower. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, packed on a globular spadix. Its leaves appear later than the flowers and grow one to two feet long.

Aside from such "ever blooming" plants as the common chickweed, this plant is the earliest spring flower.

## JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Grows in rich woods and is well known in every county of the State. It is desired for wildflower gardens and is easily



transplanted in autumn. The bulb-like base or corm ("turnip") is intensely acrid but highly nutritious and loses its acidity upon cooking. It was highly prized by the Indians. Its leaves, generally two, divide into three leaflets. Its flowers are small and inconspicuous, packed about the lower part of the spadix ("jack"). Its spathe ("pulpit") is pale green or dark purple, variegated with spots or stripes.

## YELLOW FAWN LILY

(*Erythronium grandiflorum*)



Grows in rich, moist woods throughout the State. It can be found in early April. Often the ground will be thickly dotted

with hundreds of these yellow lilies, each arising between a pair of mottled erect leaves, from deep solid scaly corms. Its leaves are mottled with purplish or whitish blotches. Its flowers are nodding and light yellow. Another species (*E. albidum*) has white flowers.

## PLUMELILY or FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL

(*Smilacina racemosa*)

Grows in rich, moist woods throughout the State. Its curved stem grows one to three feet high. Its leaves are oval and four to six inches



long. Its flowers are small greenish-white, with a large number together in a terminal panicle. Its perianth is of six uniform divisions. It has six stamens and one pistil.



**GREAT SOLOMON'S SEAL**  
(*Polygonatum commutatum*)



Grows in moist, rich soil of meadows and shaded river banks. It blossoms in May and June. Its stem is glabrous,

stout and curving, and grows two to seven feet high. Its leaves are oval, with numerous veins prominent for the full length. Its flowers are greenish-yellow, usually three or more from most of the leaf axils. Its perianth is bell-shaped; six lobed. It has six stamens and one pistil.

It is the largest of the three Solomon's Seal species found in the State. All three species possess a much jointed rootstock. The name was suggested by the large scars on the rootstock, somewhat resembling the impression of a seal upon wax.

**LARGE-FLOWERED TRILLIUM**  
(*Trillium grandiflorum*)

The largest and most beautiful of the five Trilliums found in the State. Of all the spring wildflowers, none is more familiar and characteristic of the State's rich woodlands.



The name Trillium is from the Latin word tres, three, in reference to the fact that the parts of the flower are arranged in threes. Its corolla turns pink in age.



Spring Wildflowers

**LARGE-FLOWERED BELLWORT**  
(*Uvularia grandiflora*)



The graceful stems and nodding lemon-yellow flowers of this plant appear in rich woods in all parts

of the State from April to June. The leaves appear to be penetrated near the base by the stem with one or two flowers on each plant. Its sepals and petals are uniform in color.

**MARSH MARIGOLD**  
(*Caltha palustris*)

Very common in the State's height elevations and also marshes, bogs and low ground along streams. It



grows in great abundance, forming beds that spread over considerable areas. It is sometimes used as greens when coming into flower. It has five to nine golden yellow sepals, resembling petals. There are no petals.

**DWARF LARKSPUR**  
(*Delphinium tricorne*)

Grows in rich woods in every county of the State west of the Appalachians. It has bright violet-blue Delphinium



clusters. Occasionally white-flowered plants are found. Its stem is 6 to 36 inches high,

**WILD BLUE PHLOX**  
(*Phlox divaricata*)



Grows in rocky woods in nearly all parts of the State. Its corolla is pale lilac or bluish, salver-shaped, with

a long tube and a 5-parted border. It has graceful, delicately tinted flowers.

In some places this is known locally as wild Sweet William, although this name is more correctly used for a summer blooming species.

**GROUNDIVY**  
(*Glechoma hederacea*)

Grows in damp or shady rich soil near dwellings in all parts of the State. It has a square stem, opposite



leaves and distinctive aroma characteristic of the members of the Mint family in general. Its stem creeps upon the ground with a profusion of blossoms. It has kidney-shaped, crenate leaves. Its flowers are loosely clustered in the axils of the leaves. It has a 5-toothed calyx and bluish-purple, 2-lipped corolla. It has four stamens and one pistil. It was introduced from Europe.



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**INDIAN PAINTBRUSH**  
(*Castilleja coccinea*)



Grows in low meadows and moist sandy soil in the mountainous part of the State. This species is a parasite on the roots of other plants,

but is not completely dependent upon them, since it is green and makes a portion of its own food supply through photosynthesis. The upper leaves look as though their tips had been dipped in scarlet or vermilion paint. These are often mistaken for the coccinea, are showy and flower, which is itself quite inconspicuous.

**LOUSE WORT**  
(*Pedicularis canadensis*)

Grows in thickets and on shaded banks throughout the State. Its clustered hairy stems are 5 to 12 inches high. Its leaves alternate, pinnately incised. It flowers in a short dense spike, its calyx split in front, oblique. Its corolla is two-lipped dull greenish yellow and red, with an arched upper lip and three-lobed lower. It has four stamens and one pistil.



This plant received both its English and Latin names from the belief held by farmers of the Middle Ages that the presence of the European species in a field would cause their sheep to have lice.

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**DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES**  
(*Dicentra cucullaria*)



Grows in rich woods in all State counties. Its lower stalk arises from a scaly bulbous base. It has odd-shaped

flowers and rich green foliage. The common name is easily explained by the shape of the flowers. It is easily transplanted.

**STONECROP**  
(*Sedum ternatum*)

The common stonecrop grows in moist, rocky woods in all parts of the State. Its mossy tufts often appear on large boulders or against wet cliffs. It has white flowers in a 3-part cluster and four or five petals.



The scientific name is from the sedere, meaning to sit, in allusion to the way in which the plants seem to sit on rocks.

**CUTLEAF TOOTHWORT**  
(*Dentaria laciniata*)



Grows in rich woods in all State counties. Like the crinkleroot, it has edible, peppery rootstock. Its stem is 8 to

15 inches high and bears 3 leaves. Its leaves divide into three deeply cut-toothed leaflets. It flowers in a terminal cluster. It

has four sepals and four white or pinkish petals, six stamens and one pistil. It is one of the most common spring flowers of the State, but many people do not know it by name.

The name Toothwort is the English rendering of the scientific name of the plant, and refers to the deeply toothed leaflets.

**EARLY SAXIFRAGE**  
(*Saxifraga virginiensis*)



In April the States dry hillsides and crevices in rocky cliffs become white with the blossoms of this plant.

The word saxifrage is from the Latin saxum, a rock, and frangere, to break, alluding to the way the plants grow in the clefts of the rocks and seem to break them.

**WILD GERANIUM**  
(*Geranium maculatum*)

Grows in all State counties and is a common woodland plant. Because of its fruits beak-like appearance it is sometimes called cranesbill. The name maculatum (spotted), refers to the blotched appearance of the old leaves. It has five light pink-purple petals.



arising from a cluster of tuberous roots. Its leaves are deeply parted, with narrow lobes. It flowers in terminal racemes. It has a calyx of five blue sepals, with the upper one prolonging backward into a long spur. It has a corolla of four irregular blue petals with the upper two extending backwards in spurs enclosed by the spur of the calyx. It has numerous stamens and three pistils.

**WOOD ANEMONE OR WINDFLOWER**  
(*Anemone quinquefolia*)



Grows in rich spring woods, especially in the State's mountain counties, often growing in extensive

colonies. The name Windflower refers to its appearance in the windy season. Leaves are three in a whorl, each three parted. Its flower is solitary and nearly an inch broad. It has four to seven white petal-like sepals, often tinged with pink outside. There are no petals.

**CAROLINA BEAUTY**  
(*Claytonia Caroliniana*)

Grows in most parts of the State and often forms a nearly complete ground-cover in moist open woods. The stem is more or less reclining, arising from a deep tuber. It has five petals, white with pink veins, or rose color with deep veins.



This plant's scientific name honors Dr. John Clayton who lived along the James River near Richmond in the early part of the 18th Century and who is sometimes referred to as the pioneer

of American botanists. The Spring Claytonia Beauty is one of our earliest plants.

**GREAT CHICKWEED**  
(*Stellaria pubera*)



Grows in moist, rocky woods in every State county. It is the largest and prettiest of half a dozen or more

kinds of Chickweed found in the State. However, is a native of the Alleghenies as most of the others came to us from the Old World. Its stem is weak, more or less reclining on the ground. Its five petals are deeply two-parted, appearing like ten.

**FIRE PINK**  
(*Silene virginica*)

Often found growing in shady soil of dry, open woods in many parts of the State, but particularly common in



the hilly region from the Alleghenies westward. A showy plant, its stems are covered with sticky hairs to which small insects become attached, suggesting the English name Catchfly. Its corolla is composed of five deep crimson petals, each with two teeth at the end.



Spring Wildflowers

## COLUMBINE

(*Aquilegia canadensis*)



Grows on rocky cliffs in every State county. It is one of the most widely known spring flowers. The name

*Aquilegia* is from the Latin word for eagle, an allusion to the spurred flowers, while the word columbine refers to a dove, perhaps referring to a resemblance of the flower to a bird's head.

## PINK LADY'S SLIPPER

(*Cypripedium acaule*)

Grows in dry woods. The Pink or Stemless Lady's Slipper is easily recognized by its pink flower, borne



at the summit of a stalk (scape) from the base of which grow two large opposite leaves. Its lip is in the form of a *Cypripedium acaule*, inflated pouch, similar in appearance to an old-fashioned moccasin, hence the common name Moccasin Flower. This plant is perhaps the most highly prized wild orchid in the State because of its beautiful color and odd appearance. Three other Lady's Slipper species also grow in the State.

## WILD GINGER

(*Asarum canadense*)



Grows in rich moist woods in every State county. Wild Ginger forms large beds of dark green velvety leaves arising from

long rootstocks whose ginger-like odor and taste suggested the common name for the plant. The flowers are not showy and are often hidden close to the ground beneath dead leaves. Its long-stalked leaves, usually two, are heart-shaped and flower solitary on a short stalk from between the two leaves. It has a 3-part dull purplish-brown calyx; no corolla, 1 stamen and 1 pistil with 6 stigmas.

## TWINLEAF

(*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

Grows in deciduous woods of all State counties and blooms in the early days of April. Its long-stalked leaves rise from the root. Its four sepals fall off as the flower opens. It has eight white petals.



The scientific name was given in honor of Thomas Jefferson, while the common name refers to its two equal leaflets, one of its most distinctive features.

## MAYAPPLE

(*Podophyllum peltatum*)



Grows in rich soil of woods and fields in every part of the State. It has one to two feet high flowerless

stems terminated by one large round leaf. Its flowering stems bear two, one-sided leaves. It bears one large flower, nodding from the fork between the two leaves. It has six sepals (quickly falling), six to nine white petals, six to nine stamens; one pistil.

It is one of the State's best known and most widely distributed plants. It has umbrella-like leaves and partly hidden white flowers or the ovoid and has edible but unpleasantly flavored yellow "apples" which ripen in July.

## COMMON BLUE VIOLET

(*Viola papilionacea*)

The most common of all the State's violets and is often called Johnny-jump-ups. It grows in all State counties in low



ground, woods, meadows and waste places. It is extremely variable in size, flower color and leaf shape. Its scape usually glabrous. It has heart-shaped leaves and its petioles glabrous or sparingly pubescent. It flowers solitary. It has five sepals and five petals, deep violet, white or yellowish at the base. It has five stamens and one pistil.

Approximately 26 species of violets are found wild in the State.

## TRAILING ARBUTUS

(*Epigaea repens*)



This plant prefers light sandy acidic soil and is very difficult to move into flower gardens. Its stems are

prostrate or trailing, covered with rusty hairs. Its leaves are ever-green, rounded and heart-shaped. It has waxy blossoms and its flowers are white to dark pink. It has an appealing fragrance.

It is said that this plant's flowers were the first to greet the Pilgrims after their fearful winters. It is Massachusetts' state flower.

## BLOODROOT

(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

The snowy white flowers appear in rich woods after only a few warm sunny days. Its flower is best enjoyed



by leaving it on the stalk, since a mere touch is all that is required to cause the petals to fall. It is easily trans-planted to flower gardens. Its rootstock, as well as its scape and leaves, contains a crimson juice which gives the common name. The flower buds are at first swathed by the young leaves.

