

Cleft Phlox

(*Phlox bifida*)

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Cleft Phlox is a flowering perennial plant that is native to the Midwest. It is rather short in stature only growing to around 6 inches in height and is found in sandy or rocky areas.

It is likely that many people have never seen Cleft Phlox. It blooms at a time when you would not anticipate flowering plants to be active and is rare enough that there are only a few known populations in Benton County. However, its numerous purple and white flowers carpet the ground in areas where it does grow and offer color during a time of year that usually lacks it.

Cleft Phlox provides several environmental and ecological benefits where it grows. It helps to prevent erosion on sandy soils and produces nectar for insects like butterflies, moths and skippers.

Cleft Phlox Quick Facts:

- Classification: Forb
- Life Cycle: Perennial
- Flower Color: Purple, Blue, White
- Bloom Time: April through May
- Iowa Conservation Status: Special Concern



Interesting Facts

Listed Plants

Iowa has three different designations for listing rare plants and animals. These include Special Concern, Threatened and Endangered.

Special Concern is given to plants that are suspected to have population or distribution problems and may become threatened in the near future.

Threatened is given to species that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

Endangered is given to species that run the risk of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of their range.