

Phlox

Phlox paniculata 'Blue Paradise'

Fragrant, tubular florets up to 3/4" diameter are densely packed in large, tiered, domed 6 to 8 inch terminal clusters over a long July to September bloom period. The spicy vanilla-clove scented flowers respond to differing light conditions – they open violet blue at dawn, develop a purple hue during the day and change back to violet blue at dusk. Butterflies and hummingbirds love the flowers. Phlox is intolerant of drought and needs to be watered in dry spells, but avoid overhead watering. It has escaped gardens and naturalized into areas beyond its original native range. It is typically found in moist or rich low woods, thickets, alluvial banks and gravel bars along streams and bluff bases.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 9

Uses: mass planting; specimen; ground cover; border; accent

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 2 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

Plant spacing: 24 inches

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: low to none

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: susceptible to powdery mildew

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Photo: Gardenia.net