

***Phlox glaberrima ssp interior* – Marsh Phlox**

COMMON NAME: Marsh Phlox, Smooth Phlox

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Phlox glaberrima* – from Greek *phlox* meaning “flame” and from Latin *glaberrima* meaning “smooth”. The subspecies (*ssp*) in our area is *interior*.

FLOWER: Loose clusters of bright pink blossoms each with 5 petals that are partially joined

BLOOMING PERIOD: early June through late July

SIZE: 18 to 32 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the bright flowers which are a source of nectar in late spring.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade in rich dense fen-like prairies, sedgy depressions and oak openings. Needs a moist site.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern U.S. as far north as Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. In Wisconsin it is found naturally only in the far southeastern corner of the state, but can be grown in the Dane County area. It is listed as *Endangered* in Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This phlox is different from *Downy Phlox* by the lack of tiny hairs on the stems and leaves. The petals of the blossoms are partially joined.

SUGGESTED CARE: Needs almost constant moisture.

COMPANION PLANTS: Little bluestem, shooting star, wild strawberry, alum root, yellow star grass, black-eyed Susan, compass plant, blue-eyed grass, stiff goldenrod, needle grass and golden Alexanders.