

Early Summer is a vibrant time in the fields and forests of Virginia. Leaves have reached their full size and the world is covered in rich, vigorous greenery.

Interspersed throughout the sometimes impenetrable wall of green are hundreds of species of wildflowers, each putting on a unique show of vivid color and form. The varied shapes and sizes of flowers reflect the varied types of pollinators active during this busy time of year.



Thimbleweed - *Anemone virginiana*

Follow the pollinators' lead and explore some of our amazing wildflowers with the help of this ID guide.

These icons denote the most common locations of each plant along the trail:



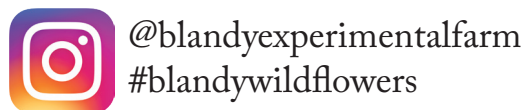
Identify more plants and share your observations online!



The citizen science app iNaturalist is a free resource to help you identify more plants not in this brochure, and contribute to citizen science programs in the area! Just download the free app from Google Play or the App Store to get started.

- Upload your photos of plants and wildlife to get suggestions on possible IDs.
- Join the 'Blandy Experimental Farm' project to share your observations with our scientists and other guests.
- Learn from other outdoor enthusiasts and contribute to citizen science projects!

Take an interesting photo? Tag us on social media!



The Wildflowers of Early Summer



Plant Identification Guide



Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*) - Tall spikes of white flowers. Compound leaves with many leaflets, each leaflet with several pointed lobes. 🌳



Eastern Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) - Clusters of Blue/white flowers on top of stems, each with 5 petals. Alternate, smooth-edged leaves. 2-3 ft tall. 🌳



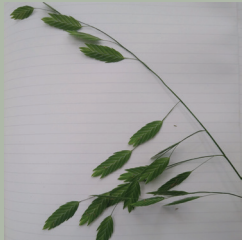
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) - Unique blue/purple flowers with 3 petals - sometimes in clusters. Long, straight, iris-like leaves. 2-3 ft tall. 🌳



Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*) - Spherical inflorescence with many small white flowers. Leaves long and grasslike from base. 1-2 ft tall. 🌳



Wild Bee-Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*) - Spherical purple flowers with many tube-like florets on top of tall stems. Leaves opposite with toothed edges. 2-5 ft tall. 🌳 ☀️



River Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) - 2-4 ft tall Grass with nodding inflorescences that resemble 'fish on a line,' which is another common name. 🌳



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) - Clusters compound flowers, each with 5 ray petals. Distinct, fern-like leaves divided into dozens of narrow lobes. 1-3 ft tall. ☀️



Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) - Spherical clusters of purple/red flowers. Opposite, oval shaped leaves with distinct, red midvein and milky sap. 2-4 ft tall. ☀️



Butterflyweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) - Bright orange flower clusters. Narrow, opposite leaves with smooth edges and milky sap. 1-3 ft tall. ☀️



Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*) - Small flowers (<1 inch diameter) with white rays and yellow centers. Oblong, alternate leaves 1-4 inches long. 1-3 ft tall. ☀️



Slender Mountainmint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*) - Clusters of small white flowers often with some purple marks. Opposite leaves very short and thread-like. 1-3 ft tall. ☀️



Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) - Unique white, orb-like flowers in branching umbels. Leaves are broad, leathery, and yucca-like. 2-5 ft tall. ☀️



Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) - Bright, all yellow flowers on tall stalks. The edges of the petals have several coarse teeth. 1-3 ft tall. ☀️



Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) - White, funnel-shaped flowers attached to a tall spike. Opposite, shiny leaves on a purple stem. 2-4 ft tall. ☀️



American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) - Bushy shrub with dense clusters of white flowers, 5 petals each. Compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets. 💧



Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) - a short tree with reddish twigs and clusters of white flowers, 4 petals each. Leaves simple and opposite with smooth edges. 💧



Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*) - Pink flowers with 5 petals and many yellow stamens in the center. Leaves rose-like with thorny prickles. Woody branches, 3-5 ft tall. 💧



Dark Green Bulrush (*Scripus atrovirens*) - Grasslike plant up to 3-5 ft tall. Flowers appear as clusters of spiky brown balls often connected by round green stems. 💧