



2023 Native Perennial of the Year



Mertensia virginica

Virginia bluebells

The pink buds of this favorite spring ephemeral open to showy sky-blue flowers in early spring. The rounded leaves are blue-green when they appear, often in March. Dormant by mid-summer, so pair with ferns or other later emerging plants. Early nectar source for bees.

- Hardiness:** Zones 3–8
Light: Part shade
Soil: Moist to average
Size: 8–16” tall
Foliage: Rounded blue–green leaves
Flowers: Arching racemes of pink buds open to blue flowers
Fruit: Brown nutlets
Bloom Time: March to April
Wildlife Value: The flowers attract pollinators, including bumblebees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Deer resistant.



Photos: Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder