

Trees & Shrubs

Amorpha fruticosa

Indigo bush. A pollinator favorite & butterfly host plant with ornamental flowers. (A. nana also flowers now; A. canescens is a bit later)

Aronia melanocarpa

Black chokeberry also has white spring flowers, (healthy! but bitter fruit) and attractive fall foliage.

Buddleja sp.

Butterfly bush is a problem plant in some parts of the country... Most varieties sold today are sterile, but know what you're planting!

Ceanothus americanus

New Jersey Tea. A good plant for pollinators and host for several lepidoptera. Can be made into a tea (as the common name suggests)

Chionanthus virginicus

Fringe tree or Grancy graybeard is a member of the olive family with fragrant blooms. There are separate male and female plants

Cornus sp.

Cornus kousa (non-native) and a number of natives bloom this month including C. obliqua (silky) and C. racemosa (gray)

Deutzia gracilis

An *exotic* hydrangea relative with white flowers.

Eunymous americanus

Strawberry bush or Hearts-a-Bustin puts on a real show is when it fruits! E. atropurpureus (Eastern Wahoo) is similar but larger

Frangula caroliniana

Carolina buckthorn. This plant is not showy - but it is the biggest pollinator draw. It's red fruits are also a draw for birds.

Gardenia jasminoides

Gardenia. *Non-native*

Hesperaloe parviflora

Red yucca. A Texas native that attracts hummingbirds.

Hydrangea macrophylla

Mophead hydrangeas or Hortensias are native to Japan. Frost damage means that fewer of these are flowering in 2020

Hydrangea quercifolia

Oakleaf hydrangea. US Native.

Itea virginica

Virginia sweetspire. Fragrant white flowers (and vibrant red fall foliage)

Lavandula stoechas

Spanish lavender. *Non-native*.

Ligustrum sp.

Privet. **Exotic invasive**. If you feel you must grow privet, please cut it back after flowering to reduce its spread.

Liriodendron tulipifera

Tulip tree. You may have to crane your neck to see these flowers. Host plant for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail & Tuliptree Silkmoth

Magnolia sp.

Southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora), Bigleaf magnolia (Magnolia macrophylla) & Sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana) are blooming now

Nandina domestica.

Heavenly bamboo. **Invasive**. If you feel you must have nandina, please grow sterile cultivars (e.g., tags should say "Flowering season: None")

Paulownia tomentosa

The empress tree has showy, fragrant purple blooms, and a heart of darkness - set on global domination! **Exotic invasive**.

Philadelphus sp.

Mock orange is a relative of hydrangea grown for its fragrant white flowers. There are natives and non-natives.

Ptelea trifoliata

Wafer ash. This is a super interesting member of the rue/citrus family. Host plant for the Eastern Tiger & Giant Swallowtails

Punica granata

Pomegranate. *Exotic*. Easily identifiable because of their eye popping red/orange flowers

Pyracantha sp.

Firethorn are *not native*. You commonly see them growing against walls. White flowers, red fruits, and sharp (evil) thorns

Rhododendron sp.

Azaleas native to Arkansas include Rhododendron prinophyllum (a spring bloomer) and R. viscosum (which blooms later in the year)

Rosa sp.

Native and non-native roses are blooming now.

Rubus sp.

There are several different blackberry species native to central Arkansas (and a non-native: R. armeniacus)

Spiraea sp.

Spiraea japonica and Spiraea x bumalda (the Bumald spiraea) are blooming now

Styrax sp.

(Native) S. grandiflorus and (exotic) S. japonica bloom first (starting in April). (Native) S. americanus blooms last.

Viburnum sp.

There are a number of native viburnums (both trees and shrubs).

Yucca sp.

Yuccas have a symbiotic relationship with yucca moths (and are hosts for a few skippers as well).

Vines

Berchemia scandens

Alabama supplejack or Rattan vine. This is not at all a showy plant - but I'm including the flower time in case it helps with ID

Bignonia capreolata

Crossvine. A close relative of trumpet creeper and a hummingbird favorite.

Clematis sp.

Clematis - bloom time and color varies with selection. There are several spring blooming natives.

Lonicera japonica

Japanese honeysuckle. **Invasive.**

Lonicera sempervirens

Coral/trumpet honeysuckle. Hummingbird favorite with protracted bloom.

Groundcovers, Perennials, Bulbs, & (a few) Annuals

Achillea sp.

Yarrow. A. millefolium is a native plant. (A. filipendula is not).

Allium sp.

Allium canadense, garlic, and some of the giant ornamental alliums are blooming this month

Amsonia ciliata

Fringed bluestar. All the amsonias have blue flowers early and yellow fall foliage.

Amsonia hubrichtii

Arkansas bluestar. Fine textured foliage and vibrant fall foliage. **Full sun**

Amsonia tabernaemontana

Bluestar. The earliest of the bluestars

Aquilegia canadensis

Eastern columbine. A classic wildflower and hummingbird plant.

Arunco dioicus

Goat's beard is a large showy perennial for shade. If you like astilbe (false goats beard) you should definitely check this plant out.

Asclepias tuberosa

Butterfly milkweed.

Baptisia sp.

Cultivar bloom time varies by selection and microclimate

Blephilia ciliata

Downy wood mint. This is one of the cutest plants in my garden! It looks like little blooming snowmen.

Callirhoe alcaeoides

White wine cups. The callirhoes are hibiscus relatives. These guys are all drought tolerant and have a long flowering season.

Callirhoe bushii

Bush's poppy mallow or wine cup has pretty wine colored flowers. C. involutra is very similar, but a bit lower growing.

Coreopsis grandiflora

Large flowered coreopsis. A lower growing coreopsis with a clumping habit. Deadhead to prolong bloom.

Coreopsis tinctoria

Plains coreopsis is a native annual frequently spotted along the highway in early spring.

Coreopsis verticillata

Thread leaf coreopsis. A fine textured coreopsis with a long season. Deadheading is not necessary for prolonged bloom.

Dianthus sp.

Dianthus/pinks. Fans of dianthus may want to check out our native Silenes.

Echinacea pallida

Pale coneflower.

Echinacea paradoxa

Yellow coneflower is adapted to drier soils - be sure you give it good drainage.

Echinacea purpurea

Purple coneflower.

Engelmannia peristenia

Engelmann's Daisy is an aster family member that will grow in hot dry places. Syn Engelmannia pinnatifida

Erigeron sp.

The fleabanes can be thuggish, but they're also good for beneficial insects & bees. White, pink, and purple flowers

Geranium maculatum

Spotted geranium. A showy plant for shade. Seeds are eaten by mourning doves and quail.

- Gillenia sp.
Gillenia trifoliata (early May) and G. stipulata (late may) have bronze-red new growth and delicate white flowers. Syn. Porteranthus
- Glandularia canadensis
Rose verbena continues to flower on and off through the year
- Hemerocallis sp.
Day lily. *Non-native*. The repeat blooming Stella D'Oro leads the pack where I live
- Heuchera sp.
Coral bells or Alumroot. H. americana (American Alumroot) and many cultivars bloom in early spring.
- Hosta sp.
Early flowering hostas are just starting to flower in Little Rock at the very tail end of the month.
- Hippeastrum sp.
Amaryllis. *Non-native*
- Iris pseudacorus
Yellow iris. *Potentially invasive in wet areas.*
- Iris virginica var shrevei
Southern blue flag.
- Iris x.
Bearded iris. *Non-native*. Bloom time and color varies with cultivar
- Iris x. (native)
Many Louisiana Iris cultivars are crosses of native species. Bloom time varies. (This is the record for 'Black Gamecock' in my yard)
- Leucanthemum x superbum
Shasta daisy. *Non-native*.
- Lilium sp.
Asiatic lilies began blooming in early May. Easter lilies are starting at the end. Native (turks cap & Michigan) bloom later in the summer.
- Lychnis coronaria
Rose campion. *Non-native*.
- Lysimachia lanceolata
Lanceleaf loosestrife makes a floral oil used by some short-tongued bees.
- Maianthemum racemosum
False Solomon's Seal. A pretty plant for moist shade with fruits that are attractive to birds. Syn. Smilacina racemosa
- Monarda bradburiana
Eastern bee balm or Bradbury's bee balm. Quite similar to M. fistulosa, but lower growing.
- Oenothera fruticosa
Common sundrops. This is a well behaved Oenothera with yellow (sunny) flowers.
- Oenothera speciosa
Pink evening primrose. A vigorous (thuggish) plant favored by moths, bees, and finches - frequently spied along highways in early spring.
- Packera tomentosa
Woolly ragwort. Full sun preferred. Syn - Senecio tomentosus
- Paeonia sp.
Non-native. The bloom time, color, and form of herbaceous peonies varies by cultivar
- Parthenium integrifolium
Wild quinine. An architectural plant with pearly white flowers.
- Penstemon digitalis
Beard tongue.
- Penstemon laxiflorus.
Nodding penstemon.
- Phlox divaricata
Woodland phlox. Typically in shades of blue or purple. Part sun to shade
- Phlox glaberrima
Marsh phlox. A mid size phlox excellent for damp clay
- Phlox pilosa.
Prairie phlox. This grows wild in my neighborhood park. Like many phlox bloom color varies.
- Polemonium reptans
Jacob's ladder
- Prunella vulgaris
Heal all is a member of the mint family found growing in many parts of the world.
- Pycnanthemum tenuifolium
Slender mountain mint.
- Ranunculus sp.
There are several common species of buttercups. R. hispidus (native) and R. sarduous (non-native) have shown up in my yard.

- Rudbeckia hirta
(Annual) Black-eyed susan.
- Ruellia caroliniensis
Wild petunia is a butterfly host plant with a long bloom season - but you have to be okay with it seeding around!
- Salvia greggii
Autumn sage is a US native attractive to hummingbirds (and other pollinators). Some crosses (e.g., Arctic Blaze) will bloom sporadically now to fr
- Salvia lyrata
Lyre-leaved sage. Light blue flowers - commonly seen in lawns
- Sedum sp.
Many low growing sedums flower this time of year; including the native: Sedum ternatum
- Silene virginica
Fire pink. A hummingbird favorite for part shade.
- Sisyrinchium sp.
The blue eyed grasses are members of the iris family easily mistaken for grass when not in flower. 4 species grow in Pulaski County
- Spigelia marilandica
Indian pink. A very showy native for shade. Hummingbird favorite
- Stokesia laevis
Stokes' aster (US Native) - a showy, low growing member of the aster family.
- Streptanthus maculatus
Clasping jewelflower. A rare showy member of the brassica family. (In Little Rock this grows in some of our parks and wild places)
- Tephrosia virginiana
Goat's rue. A showy legume family member with yellow and pink flowers and silvery foliage
- Tradescantia sp.
Spiderwort.
- Triodanis perfoliata
Venus looking glass. A common annual wildflower with purple blooms that's related to cardinal flower.
- Verbena bonariensis
Brazilian vervain is a showy ornamental that has escaped cultivation in parts of the country.
- Veronicastrum virginicum
Culver's root. A showy, structural plant (just on the edge of flowering at the end of May)
- Zizia aurea
Golden alexanders. A host plant for some swallowtail species and a favorite of small insects. (Z. aptera is a similar garden addition)