

Spring Blooming Native Plants

THAT WORK WELL IN ARRANGEMENTS

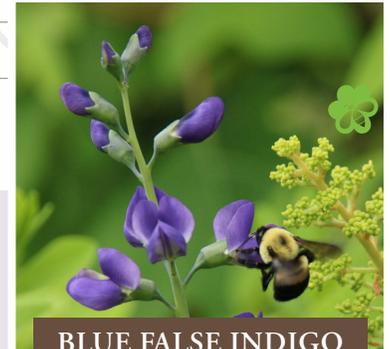
NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, BUT WE HOPE IS FULL OF IDEAS AND INSPIRATION



- **NATIVE COLUMBINE** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) Nodding red and yellow flowers reach up to three feet tall and were a favorite of Mr. Jefferson himself. As with most columbines, this plant reseeds itself easily and prolifically
- **AMSONIA** One of the first plants to bloom in many spring gardens, its pale blue star-like flowers and fringy foliage are a great contrast to bigger, bolder plant material
- **VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS** (*Mertensia*) This is Virginia's state wildflower and a harbinger of spring. While summer dormancy can be a problem in the garden, they are hardy in a cut flower arrangement. Pink buds emerge in early spring, opening to blue bell-shaped flowers
- **BLEEDING HEART** (*Dicentra spectabilis*) Delicate, but surprisingly long-lived as a cut flower
- **FOAM FLOWER** Easy to grow and happiest in partial shade, these dainty plants bloom in the spring, offering ephemeral blooms on delicate stems, hence the name
- **NATIVE FERNS** such as *Sensitive Fern* and *Hay-scented Fern* provide beautiful texture to cut flower arrangements
- **SOLOMON SEAL** Pendulous white flowers dangle from sturdy stalks, but the main reason arrangers love this plant is the arching stems that provide structure and support in large floral designs



- **BEE BALM** or **WILD BERGAMOT** Though prone to powdery mildew later in the summer, it makes a great cut flower in the springtime. Flowers are generally lilac to pink
- **COREOPSIS** There are so many varieties, but all are colorful, daisy-like, and bloom for months if sited in a happy place
- **MOUNTAIN MINT** (*Pycnanthemum*), Blunt Mountain mint, unlike edible mint, stems hold up well in arrangements. Be forewarned, like its culinary counterpart, it spreads vigorously by runners, so if you are interested in adding it to your garden, place it with care
- **BEARDTONGUE** (*Pentstemon digitalis*) This looks a little bit like a snapdragon. Like so many natives, these are attractive to both butterflies and hummingbirds
- **CORAL HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera sempervirens*) This native vine adds color, fragrance, and whimsy to floral designs
- **JACOB'S LADDER** (*Polemonium reptans*) This short-lived woodland plant only grows to about a foot tall, but its dainty leaves and usually blue flowers are a great filler in a smaller arrangement



BLUE FALSE INDIGO
Baptisia australis

GCV's Native Plant of the Year

celebrates Virginia Native Plant month, April 2026 – all parts of this plant look fabulous in arrangements, from the flower spikes that can be blue, purple, or yellow, to the graceful foliage that resembles eucalyptus. The seed pods in the spring are pale green and add unexpected interest and ornamental value to a bouquet



- **VIBURNUM** For filler flowers, foliage and berries, especially Arrowwood and Mapleleaf, a low shrub with lacy white flowers
- **VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE** (*Itea virginica*) The drooping white flower clusters are particularly unusual in an arrangement and provide visual movement
- **MOUNTAIN LAUREL** (*Kalmia latifolia*) This evergreen shrub is underused in floral arranging even though its flowers born in adorable clusters, are long-lasting
- **SERVICEBERRY** This small tree or large shrub has it all – delicate white flowers in the spring are some of the first to bloom, followed by berries beloved by birds. In the fall, the foliage puts on quite a show
- **EASTERN REDBUD** (*Cercis canadensis*) This early-blooming tree makes an excellent food source for pollinators and can add drama and height to a large floral display
- **DOGWOOD** Tricky to condition properly, the woody branches of the state flower of Virginia can be stunning in a large display, especially if combined with azaleas

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