

Polemoniaceae

phlox family

Most diverse in western North America, NS has but three escapes from cultivation of the 300 plus species described. Herbaceous plants, they have perfect, hypogynous flowers. Corolla is sympetalous, five-merous, the lobes sometimes unequal in size. The inserted stamens alternate with the lobes. Tube is sometimes ribbed, alternating with translucent patches. Style is terminal; stigmata number three. Fruits are capsules.

Key to genera

Leaves opposite; corolla lobes >1cm wide; garden escape.

Phlox

Leaves alternate; corolla lobes <1cm wide; railroad introduction.

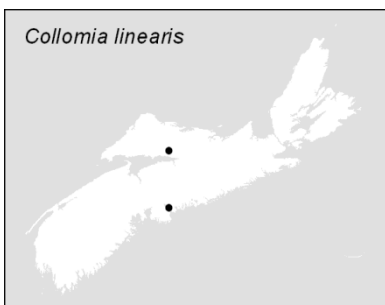
Collomia

***Collomia* Nutt.**

Western in distribution, 13 species have been described in total. The single introduction to Nova Scotia has alternate, entire leaves. The flowers are terminal on the stems. Calyx is of a papery texture and has greenish pointed lobes. Corolla is tubular, pink or blue and greatly exceeding the calyx. Stamens are unequal in length. Seeds are gelatinous when wet.

***Collomia linearis* Nutt.**

Tiny Trumpets; collomia à feuilles linéaires



A slender plant, the leaves are narrowly lanceolate. Tiny flowers are clustered and subtended by a whorl of leafy bracts, extending beyond the corolla.

Flowers from June until August.

Railway beds and banks.

Known from railbed north of Truro and Halifax.

NS to AK, south to NC, AZ and CA. Possibly introduced in the east.

Phlox* L.*sweet William; Phlox**

Plants of northern Asia and North America, there are upwards of 60 species known. They are perennials for the most part, with opposite, entire leaves. Flowers are arranged in cymes, or borne singly. Calyx tube is ribbed, the flat areas nearly translucent. Capsule is dehiscent. Corolla is also tubular, or salverform. Some stamens are inserted, others exerted. Hybrids are common as are cultivated species.

Key to species

Corolla lobes notched at the tip.

Phlox subulata

Corolla lobes entire, sometimes wavy across the terminal edge.

P. paniculata

Phlox paniculata* L.*Garden Phlox; phlox paniculé**

Photos by Martin Thomas

Tall and leafy, these sweetly fragrant flowers are borne in a terminal cyme on bright green stems. The opposite leaves are ovate.

Flowers from July through October.

Old gardens and compost piles, probably not persisting.

Occasionally collected from Cape Breton to Digby Co.

Ranges from NF to ON, south to OK and the Gulf States.



***Phlox subulata* L.**

Moss-pink; phlox mousse



Photo by Marian Munro

A matted perennial, its stems form creeping mats bearing tiny linear leaves. Flowers are brightly coloured shades of pink, borne in branching inflorescences. Sepals are grey pubescent and the petals bear small notches distally.

Flowers as early as April to early July.

A garden escape in lawns and roadsides. Persisting after planting.

Occasionally escaping from Kings to Halifax and Colchester Co.

NS to MB south to the Gulf States; introduced in the east.