

VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS

Mertensia virginica

Breathtaking blue flowers. AKA - Cowslip



Description: Perennial with pink flower buds open to sky blue in March and April. Foliage is blue-green. This plant is a spring ephemeral, meaning the foliage goes dormant in summer.

Natural Habitat: Moist rich woods and bottomlands.

Conservation Status: Michigan – threatened; New York – exploitably vulnerable.

Size: 1 – 2 ‘ tall

Growth Rate: Moderate

Light: Partial to full shade

Planting and Care: Virginia bluebells are one of the more easily grown wildflowers and succeeds in any good garden loam but prefers rich moist soil. It grows well from seed and should be cultivated more. If left undisturbed, this species will thrive and form large colonies and will multiply over time through self-seeding. Division can be done in the fall and seeds can be harvested in summer.

Landscape Usage: Great for naturalizing in a rich, moist woodland environment making them ideal for under planting shrubs and trees.