What's Blooming in Our Gardens - Spring (April & May)

Bishop's Cap (*Mitella diphylla*)

Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)

Golden Alexander (*Zizea aurea*)

Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Welcome to the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens

Use this guide as you explore the Gardens and the Preserve to discover the wonderful world of spring blooming wildflowers and tree flowers found in our forests, wetlands, and prairies throughout Michigan. Please return this guide when finished.

Gardens to Explore This Season

#5 Sedge Garden
#8 Woodland Garden
#9 A & B Cottage Gardens: Shade & Sun
#10 A & B Courtyard Gardens: Shade
#16 Native Groundcover Garden Beds
19 A Bird Feeder Garden

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)

Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

What's Blooming in Our Gardens - Spring (April & May)

Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)

Swamp Buttercup (*Ranunculus hispida*)

Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)

Rudbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

What is a Spring Ephemeral?

Spring woodland flowers, also known as spring ephemerals, are native perennials that have a very quick growing season. They take advantage of early sunlight and warmth hitting the forest floor to bloom before the trees grow leaves in the canopy. After they bloom and disperse seeds, their vegetative parts disappear by early summer.

White Blossoms

The blossoms of spring ephemerals tend to be white or very lightly colored because they do not need to attract pollinators with bright colors like summer flowers do. Pollinators of spring ephemerals include small insects on the forest floor or insects that use scent instead of sight to find nectar like, flies and bees.