

Shooting Star 'Aphrodite' (*Dodecatheon meadia*)

18-20" long-lived slowly-increasing mound.
A spring ephemeral that goes dormant with
summer heat.

Native Pennsylvania south, found in open woodlands,
rocky wooded slopes, dry to wet meadows and prairies.
Called prairie pointers by early settlers of the Midwest.

A rosette of 6-10" x 3" bright basal oblong smooth
succulent rounded leaves, reddish at base, gives rise
to multiple 8" sturdy leafless brownish red flower
stalks that divide into arching branches at the top,
each terminating in a nodding 2" flower. Each
has 5 strongly swept back bright purple-pink
petals, joined at a yellow ring with a colorful
purple and yellow beak.

Each sturdy blossom resembles a shooting
star or rocket ship. The flowers have a grape
scent. May-June.
May self-seed.

Light shade to shade, and sun if the site
is moist.

Average well-drained soil, prefers moist
loamy soil, and especially leaf mold.
Likes slopes because competition from
taller plants is reduced.

Tolerant of summer dry spells, but needs
moisture until summer dieback.

Takes some time to mature.

A marvelous plant to use in open woods,
wildflower gardens, rock gardens, informal
gardens, bog or waterside gardens, and to
naturalize.

Excellent cut flower.

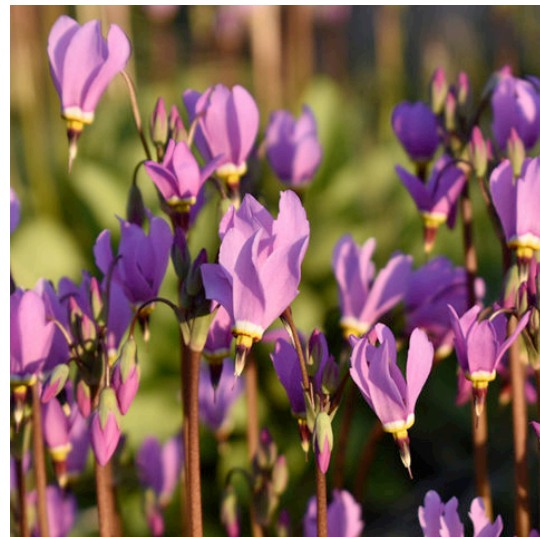
Might want to grow near a marker like a
stone to keep track of it over dormant
season.

Special Value to Bumblebees.

Bees, the chief pollinators, extract pollen
by vibrating their bodies against the narrow
tube.

Attract Queen Bumblebees, Miner Bee,
Green Metallic Bees, and more.

All of these insects collect pollen, as the
flowers offer no nectar reward.



All Photos Courtesy of
The Lurie Garden, Chicago, IL