

Creeping Phlox 'Sherwood Purple' (*Phlox stolonifera*)

6-10" low mats of semi-evergreen foliage, creep 2', or indefinitely. Can form large colonies in the wild. Moderately fast spreader, via runners that root along the ground.

Native to moist mountain woods and stream banks; PA south.

Loose clusters of vibrant very fragrant clear-purple flowers with five rounded overlapping petals, float on thin 8" stems, in May.

Paddle shaped 1-2" deep green leaves.

Part sun to shady. Moist to medium, well-drained humusy soils. Tolerates dry periods. During the springtime cleanup, be careful not to rake up this plant, as its hold in the ground is shallow. When the soil is workable, sections of the plant can be transplanted to bare patches, provided the transplants are watered in dry periods. Undemanding.

Vigorous 'Sherwood Purple' is the best variety of *P. stolonifera* to use as a groundcover, and it doesn't compete with surrounding plants. Attractive woodland ground cover, useful for shade gardens, fronts of borders, rock gardens, naturalized areas, and combined with spring bulbs.

Attracts butterflies, bees, hummingbirds.

Photo 1

Lisa Roper
Chanticleer Garden
chanticleergarden.org/5_3.html

Photos 2, 3, 5, 6

Longwood Gardens Plant Explorer
plantexplorer.longwoodgardens.org/weboi/oecgi2.exe/INET_ECM_Displ?NAMENUM=15662&DETAIL=1#images

Photo 4

Mount Cuba Center
mtcubacenter.org/images/PDFs-and-SWFs/2010-04_2.pdf

