

## Kentucky Garden Flowers Speedwells

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A number of cultivars and species of *Veronica* perform well as perennial garden flowers in Kentucky. These plants are small sized and well suited to typical home landscapes in the state.

### Speedwell – *Veronica*

Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation
dark blue, purple, white, rose	8"- 24"	spring, summer	few	edging, perennial border, cut flower	seed, division, softwood cuttings

**Performance** - Speedwells are reliable perennials in Kentucky landscapes. In general, these plants are excellent additions to a perennial garden. They prefer full sun locations and well drained garden soils. A number of speedwells have been evaluated in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2006; results are presented below.

**Comments** - Flowers can last 6-8 weeks and should be dead headed for repeat bloom. Most will flower all summer with a little care.

*Veronica alpina* - Alpine Speedwell - 'Goodness Grows'

*Veronica austriaca* - Austrian Speedwell - 'Crater Lake Blue', 'Blue Fountain'

*Veronica longifolia* - Long Leaf Veronica - 'Blue Giant', 'Icicle', 'Rosea'

*Veronica prostrata* - Harebell Speedwell - 'Heavenly Blue'

*Veronica spicata* - Spiked Speedwell - 'Blue Spires', 'Noah Williams', 'Red Fox', 'Sunny Border Blue' (1993 Perennial Plant of the Year).

*Veronicastrum* 'Fascination' – Culver's Root – This garden perennial is closely related to *Veronica*. At four feet tall it is larger than the other speedwells, but an outstanding addition to any Kentucky garden. It had excellent performance from 2000 to 2006 in our trials.



*Veronicastrum* 'Fascination'

**Excellent performance** – ‘Alba’ (‘01-’06), ‘Royal Candles’ (‘03-’06), ‘Sunny Border Blue’ (‘00-’06)  
‘White Jolanda’ (‘00-’06)

**Satisfactory performance** – ‘Blue Carpet’ (‘02-’06), ‘Georgia Blue’ (‘01-’04), ‘Goodness Grows’ (‘00-’05), ‘Icicle’ (‘00-’06), ‘Spring Dew’ (‘02-’04), ‘Waterperry’ (‘01-’04), ‘Red Fox’ (‘00-’04), ‘Rose’ (‘02-’06), ‘Sightseeing’ (‘02-’06)

**Unsatisfactory performance** – ‘Giles van Hess’ (‘00-’04), ‘Crater Lake Blue’ (‘00-’03), ‘Trehane’ (‘03-’04), ‘Noah Williams’ (‘00-’04),



‘Crater Lake Blue’



‘Alba’



‘Sunny Border Blue’

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