

Plant Profile

Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal Flower

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Image source: http://www.wildflower.org/image_archive/320x240/RWS/RWS_IMG0857.JPG

Latin name: <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Texture: Medium ¹⁶
Common name: Cardinal flower	Growth rate: Moderate ¹⁶
Flowers: Red, May-Oct ¹⁰	Light: Sun to part shade ¹⁰
Fruit: Inconspicuous ¹⁶	Moisture: Wet ¹⁰
Height & Width: 3-6 ft ¹⁰	Soil*: Clay loam-Sandy loam ¹⁰ 5.8-7.8 ¹⁶
Type: Herbaceous ¹⁰	Zones: 3-9 ¹²
Habit: Upright ¹⁰	Origin: Continental US except for Northwest, Washington, Oregon to the Dakotas. ¹⁶
Wetland indicator category**: OBL ¹⁷	Ecosystem benefits: Food source from nectar to hummingbirds and butterflies ¹⁰

(Numbers identify sources listed on page 2-3)

Features: This plant has a long blooming time. The beautiful red flowers are attractant to insects, birds, and humans. This plant can be a focal point for any lowland area.¹⁰

Siting: This plant should be placed near low wetlands and streams. The plant needs moisture to thrive. This plant does well in part sun away from intense afternoon sun.¹²

Care: Plant crown at soil level.¹⁸ At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone and keep moist. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant stems.¹⁸

Pests: No disease or pest problems.¹² Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (10/19/2015)

X_ USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

X_ SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>

Sources:

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- (17) USDA. *Plant wetland indicator status*. (n/d). Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html>
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- (19) *Add additional sources starting here*