

Phlox divaricata



Unleash the Woodland Phlox: Mastering Propagation for a Breathtaking Bloom

The delicate lavender hues of the Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) bring a touch of wild beauty to any garden. This North American native, also known as Wild Blue Phlox, is a magnet for pollinators and a joy for the eyes. Want to multiply your blooms and spread the joy? Look no further! This guide will equip you with everything you need to know about propagating *Phlox divaricata*, from simple techniques to pro-level tips.

Why Propagate?

Propagation, the magical art of creating new plants from existing ones, offers a world of benefits:

- **Free Plants!** Why buy new plants when you can easily create more of what you love for free?
- **Sharing is Caring:** Spread the floral love by gifting new

plants to friends and fellow gardeners.

- **Preserving Favorite Varieties:** Ensure the survival and continuation of unique and cherished phlox cultivars.

Propagation Power: Three Techniques to Choose From

Phlox divaricata can be propagated in several ways, each with its own advantages:

1. Division (Easiest & Fastest):

- **Timing is Key:** Early spring or fall, when the soil is moist and the weather cool.
- **The How-To:**
 1. Carefully dig up the entire plant.
 2. Use a sharp knife or garden spade to divide the root ball, ensuring each division has healthy roots and shoots.
 3. Replant divisions at the same depth they were previously growing, water thoroughly and mulch.

2. Stem Cuttings (Beginner-Friendly):

- **Best Time:** Late spring to early summer, during active growth.
- **Steps for Success:**
 1. Take 4-6 inch cuttings from healthy, non-flowering stems.
 2. Remove lower leaves and dip the cut end in rooting hormone (optional but helpful).
 3. Plant cuttings in a well-draining potting mix and keep consistently moist.
 4. Cover with a plastic bag to create humidity and place in a bright location, out of direct sunlight.
 5. Roots should develop in 4-6 weeks. Once established, transplant to larger pots or directly

into the garden.

3. Seed Starting (For the Patient Gardener):

- **Prime Time:** Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost date in your region.
- **Sowing the Seeds:**
 1. Sow seeds in seed trays filled with seed-starting mix.
 2. Lightly cover with soil and keep moist.
 3. Provide bottom heat (optional) to encourage germination.
 4. Once seedlings have several sets of true leaves, transplant them into individual pots.
 5. Gradually harden off seedlings outdoors over a week before planting them in the garden after the last frost.

Pro-Tips for Propagation Success:

- **Healthy Parent Plants:** Choose vigorous, disease-free plants for propagation.
- **Sterile Tools:** Cleanliness is key! Use sterilized cutting tools and pots to prevent the spread of diseases.
- **Proper Watering:** Maintain consistent moisture but avoid overwatering, which can lead to root rot.
- **Patience is a Virtue:** Don't get discouraged if it takes some time for roots to develop.

With a little patience and these simple techniques, you'll soon be enjoying a flourishing tapestry of Woodland Phlox, adding vibrant color and delicate charm to your garden for years to come.