



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

cleft phlox

Phlox bifida.

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The cleft phlox is also known as sand phlox. This perennial plant has stems that spread over the ground and are much branched. The hairy stems are up to 12 inches long. Leaves are placed opposite each other along the stem. Each leaf is simple, very narrow, up to two inches long and less than one-fourth inch wide. Flowers are borne in the axils of the upper leaves. Each flower may be one and one-half inches wide. The flower has five pale, purple petals that are notched at the tip. The fruit is a capsule.

BEHAVIORS

The cleft phlox may be found statewide in Illinois, although it is not common in the central counties. It grows in rocky woods, sandy soil and on limestone cliffs. This plant flowers from March through June.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest