

Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)

Family: Bellflower (Campanulaceae)

DESCRIPTION: Harebells are resilient plants, offering light blue-violet pops of color on the landscape from June to October. They can be found in the barest blufftop soils, on rocky ledges along Lake Superior, and in sandy prairies or open woods.

USES: A favorite of many native bees, harebells are a great choice for pollinator gardens and native landscape plantings. The nectar attracts pollinators such as leafcutter bees, digger bees, green sweat bees and small carpenter bees.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Friends of the Wildflower Garden](#)
[University of Minnesota Extension](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Photo Credit: Lindsey Taylor

Planting Recommendations

Harebells' long blooming period makes them a good option to add summer-through-fall color. Found on rocky slopes, in meadows and in open woodlands, they thrive in well-drained soils with full sun to partial shade. This versatile plant can be grown in window boxes, rock gardens or pollinator plantings. Although they

are delicate, they fill in well around other native grasses and flowers. Good companion plants include prairie phlox, cut-leaved toothwort, pale purple coneflower, hairy beardtongue and Ohio spiderwort. To grow from seed, scatter seeds on the soil surface and water lightly. Planting plugs is also an option; over time, harebells will self-seed.

Developed by Lindsey Taylor, a conservation specialist for Lake Superior Watersheds at Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, and a writer, birder and plant-lover



STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FACU

ID: Arranged loosely along stems that grow up to 20 inches tall, bell-shaped, nodding flowers are pale blue, violet or bright purple. Individual blooms measure up to three-quarters of an inch long. Basal leaves are round or heart-shaped, while narrow stem leaves grow up to 3 inches long.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Creeping or European bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*) is an invasive perennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall with flowers up to 1 ½ inches long. Marsh bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*) has white or pale blue flowers.