Lobelia cardinalis

Cardinal Flower

Cardinal Flower is named for its beautiful scarlet red flowers which are an important nectar source for hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. Its natural habitat is the floodplain forests, freshwater marshes, and wet meadows.

### Characteristics

- **Height:** 2-4 feet
- **Spread:** 1-2 feet
- **Bloom time:** July-September
- **Bloom color:** Red

### Attributes

- Thick, rigid and erect leafy stems in clumps
- Dark green lance-shaped leaves
- Showy red flowers, with 3 lower and 2 upper petals joined into a tube, bloom in 8-inch terminal spikes
- All parts are poisonous if eaten by humans; may cause contact dermatitis in some individuals
- Attracts hummingbirds, songbirds, and butterflies

### Growing and Maintenance

- **Soil requirements:** Humus-rich soil
- **Light requirements:** Sun, part shade
- **Water requirements:** Moist, wet

Parent plants will not persist for more than a few years, but it is a prolific self-seeder and fast grower

Tolerates wet soil and rabbits; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage, except for young plants

### Native Range

This plant is found in wet soil from New Brunswick to Minnesota, south to the Gulf of Mexico

Found in moist locations along streams, sloughs, springs, swamps, and in low wooded areas

Developed by Black Swamp Conservancy

References listed at www.blackswamp.org/factsheetreferences/