Kentucky Garden Flowers

Speedwells

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A number of cultivars and species of Veronica perform well as perennial garden flowers in Kentucky. These plants are small sized and well suited to typical home landscapes in the state.

### Speedwell – Veronica

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flower Color</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Pests</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Propagation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dark blue, purple, white, rose</td>
<td>8&quot;- 24&quot;</td>
<td>spring, summer</td>
<td>few</td>
<td>edging, perennial border, cut flower</td>
<td>seed, division, softwood cuttings</td>
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</tbody>
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**Performance** - Speedwells are reliable perennials in Kentucky landscapes. In general, these plants are excellent additions to a perennial garden. They prefer full sun locations and well drained garden soils. A number of speedwells have been evaluated in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2006; results are presented below.

**Comments** - Flowers can last 6-8 weeks and should be dead headed for repeat bloom. Most will flower all summer with a little care.

*Veronica alpina* - Alpine Speedwell - 'Goodness Grows'

*Veronica austriaca* - Austrian Speedwell - 'Crater Lake Blue', 'Blue Fountain'

*Veronica longifolia* - Long Leaf Veronica - 'Blue Giant', 'Icicle', 'Rosea'

*Veronica prostrata* - Harebell Speedwell - 'Heavenly Blue'

*Veronica spicata* - Spiked Speedwell - 'Blue Spires', 'Noah Williams', 'Red Fox', 'Sunny Border Blue' (1993 Perennial Plant of the Year).

*Veronicastrum ‘Fascination’ – Culver’s Root* – This garden perennial is closely related to *Veronica*. At four feet tall it is larger than the other speedwells, but an outstanding addition to any Kentucky garden. It had excellent performance from 2000 to 2006 in our trials.
Excellent performance – ‘Alba’ (‘01-’06), ‘Royal Candles’ (‘03-’06), ‘Sunny Border Blue’ (‘00-’06) ‘White Jolanda’ (‘00-’06)

Satisfactory performance – ‘Blue Carpet’ (‘02-’06), ‘Georgia Blue’ (‘01-’04), ‘Goodness Grows’ (‘00-’05), ‘Icicle’ (‘00-’06), ‘Spring Dew’ (‘02-’04), ‘Waterperry’ (‘01-’04), ‘Red Fox’ (‘00-’04), ‘Rose’ (‘02-’06), ‘Sightseeing’ (‘02-’06)

Unsatisfactory performance – ‘Giles van Hess’ (‘00-’04), ‘Crater Lake Blue’ (‘00-’03), ‘Trehane’ (‘03-’04), ‘Noah Williams’ (‘00-’04),

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