

# History & Fun Facts

All of the plants we sell are native to the Ohio area. That means they are adapted and ready to be a beautiful, worry free, addition to your yard!



Cardinal flowers have bright fire-engine red flowers that attract hummingbirds, which are their primary pollinators adapted to the long flowers and hard to reach nectar. In colonial times this plant was used by Native Americans for medical purposes. Today they form beautiful flowers used for decoration.



## PPGSA

The Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (PPGSA) is a non-profit organization. Funding of the activities are provided through volunteer-based activities, such as charities. PPGSA is not an official part of the Ohio State University, but will nonetheless respect many of the bylaws laid forth by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) when appropriate.

These fliers are brought to you by our Outreach Committee. The main function of this committee is to both create a greater student awareness and understanding of plant pathology in order to broaden the numbers of future plant pathologists in our department and across the country as well as to increase community awareness of the general nature of plant pathology.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Dept. of Plant Pathology

# Cardinal Flower



# Common Problems

It is important to know the common problems different plants in your garden may experience so that you can better manage the issues and ensure your plants are providing the ascetics you desire.

There are two main pathogens that Cardinal flowers are susceptible to. Rust often appears as small, bright orange, yellow, or brown pustules on the underside of leaves. Leaf spots are caused by fungi or bacteria. Brown or black spots and patches may be either ragged or circular, with a water soaked or yellow-edged appearance.



## Plant Requirements and Description

**Mature Height and Spread:**  
4 feet tall

**Growth Rate:**

**Light Requirement:**  
Full Sun or partial shade

**Other Requirements:**  
Soil type: Wet, Wet-Mesic  
6-16" apart

### Description:

Cardinal flower is a native perennial plant with small, bright red, tubular flowers that bloom in July to September on alternate sides along its unbranched stalks. Finely toothed, lance-shaped leaves grow to 4 inches in length. In the wild it is found in moist areas such as seeps, wooded swamps, freshwater marshes, and along the banks of ponds, rivers and streams.

### Management

- For rust: Clean up debris around plants and weed for maximum air circulation, water at the base of the plant. Fungicides that target rust can be used as well.
- For Leaf Spots: Remove infected leaves when plant is dry, water at base of plant, for fungal leaf spots use a fungicide.
- Remove debris near the base of the plant in the wintertime to allow the plant clearer access to air and sunshine.
- Deadhead to improve appearance and encourage rebloom
- Keep soil moist during summer dry spells. Afternoon shade is beneficial if soil is dry
- Do not cut plants back in fall. Mulch lightly, while moisture loving during the growing season, excess moisture can kill plants overwinter

## Sources

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