

What's in bloom?

by Trish Rudder

Roadsides, trails and fields around Morgan County are full of color throughout the year. Here's a quick guide to what you might be seeing in bloom throughout the summer and fall. Most bloom in mid-summer.

JUNE

Queen Anne's Lace
Bladder Campion
Thimbleweed
St. John's Wort
Yarrow
Chicory
Coreopsis
Purple Coneflower
Oxeye Daisy
Black-eyed Susan
Early Goldenrod
Evening Primrose

JULY

Queen Anne's Lace
Black-eyed Susan
Yarrow
Oxeye Daisy
Early Goldenrod
Chicory
Purple Coneflower
Daylily
Wild Parsnip
Bladder Campion
Red Clover
St. John's Wort
Evening Primrose
Morning Glory
Common Milkweed
Blue Thistle
Mullein
Wild Teasel
Ironweed
Daisy
Butterfly Weed
Bee Balm
Joe Pye Weed
Butter and Eggs



Daylily

AUGUST

Black-eyed Susan
Bladder Campion
St. John's Wort
Evening Primrose
Queen Anne's Lace
Morning Glory
Ironweed
Early Goldenrod
Daisy

Cone Flower
Purple Coneflower
Thistle
Joe Pye Weed
Honeysuckle
Yarrow
Sneezeweed

Sunflowers, Asters and Phlox will bloom from mid-August through October. Joe Pye Weed and Ironweed will add to the variety of autumn colors. Wildflowers can bloom during any month of the year, but truly spectacular flower shows occur in April and May and August through September, according to "Wildflowers," e-WV: the West Virginia Encyclopedia by William N. Grafton.

SEPTEMBER

Aster
Boneset
Ironweed
Goldenrod
Cattail
Evening Primrose
Early Goldenrod
Black-eyed Susan
Queen Anne's Lace
Catnip
Smartweed
Phlox
Thistle
Common Oxalis



Black-eyed Susan

OCTOBER

Evening Primrose
Ironweed
Early Goldenrod
Black-eyed Susan



Ironweed

NOVEMBER

Evening Primrose
Ironweed
Early Goldenrod
Black-eyed Susan

Photos from "West Virginia Mid-Summer Wildflowers," by WV Department of Agriculture.

Explore the wetlands at Widmyer

by Trish Rudder

Wildflowers grow in abundance in wetlands and those walking the pathway at the Widmyer Wetlands will see many species. In addition to its beautiful wildflowers, wetlands provide food, water and shelter for a number of wildlife and plants.

Wetlands also benefit the environment by collecting, filtering and cleaning stormwater.

The wetlands area at Widmyer Elementary school are one of the main filtration areas for the Warm Springs Run, the 11.8-mile waterway that begins south of town and empties into the Potomac River, north of Berkeley Springs. Wetlands soils soak up and hold heavy rain before it reaches Warm Springs Run and helps reduce flooding. The wetlands plants help to control erosion of the run, which reduces the severity of flooding downstream.



One of several educational signs at the Widmyer Wetlands area.

Open to the public

It was built about 2009 in a joint effort between the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and Morgan County Schools, said Warm Springs Watershed Association president Kate Lehman as a watershed project to help prevent flooding. The watershed association signed on as the organization responsible for maintenance, she said.

The watershed association and the schools worked together in 2014 to have signs made and installed in the wetlands, and they are working together again to install a boardwalk and bridge that will allow easier access to the wetlands, Lehman said.

What's in bloom in the Wetlands at Widmyer?

According to a checklist by local resident and master gardener Norman Dean, who is also a member of the Warm Springs Watershed Association, many of the flowering plants at the Widmyer Wetlands are in bloom June through September.

In June some of the flowering plants are Queen Anne's Lace, Yarrow, Coreopsis, Purple Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan and Early Goldenrod.

In July, one could see Queen Anne's Lace, Black-eyed Susan, Yarrow, Gray Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Ox-Eye Daisy, Early Goldenrod, St. John's Wort, Hop and White Clover, Wild Bergamot, Buttonbush, Monkey Flower and Butter and Eggs.

In August, Queen Anne's Lace, Black-eyed Susan, Cone Flower, Early Goldenrod, Purple Coneflower, Thistle, Lanceleaved Goldenrod, Iron Weed, Sow Thistle, Joe Pye Weed, Tall Goldenrod, Boneset, Honeysuckle, White Clover and Virginia Knotweed.

In September, look for Boneset, Joe Pye Weed, New York Ironweed, Goldenrod, Gentian, Turtle Head and Cattail.

Getting to the Wetlands

Widmyer Elementary School is off U.S. 522, south of Berkeley Springs. From the Widmyer parking lot, walk across the foot bridge over Warm Springs Run.

Walk the length of the track and cut over to the path and kiosk to enter the Wetlands at Widmyer.