



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Virginia Bluebells, Virginia Cowslip, Lungwort Oysterleaf, Roanoke Bells

Scientific Name: *Mertensia virginica*

Plant Family: Boraginaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: The plant can grow to 61 cm (2 feet) tall.

Leaves: The leaves are a blueish-green, entire (not toothed) and die back beneath ground after the plant flowers.

Flowers: The buds of Virginia Bluebells start out reddish purple and become blue, bell-shaped flowers clustered at the ends of stems. Occasionally you might see a bluebell plant with white or pink flowers.

Habitat: Virginia bluebells are usually found in moist, shady sites.

Bloom time: April and May



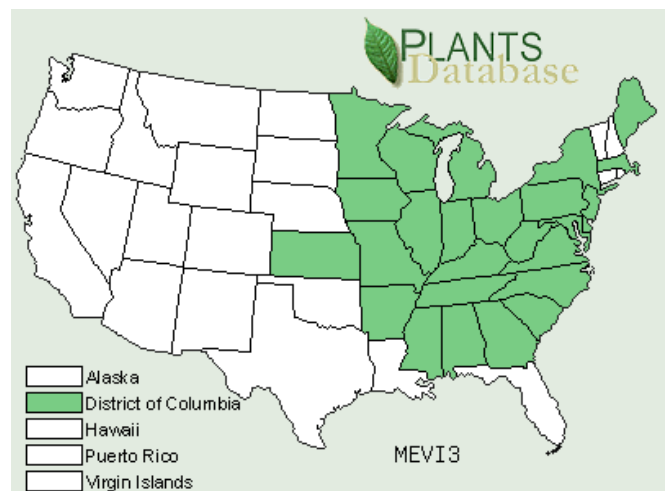
Photograph by William S. Justice
@ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photograph by Robert H. Mollenbroek @ USDA-NRCS

Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)

Did you know? Virginia bluebells are pollinated by all kinds of long-tongued bees.