**cleft phlox**
*Phlox bifida*

**Kingdom:** Plantae  
**Division/Phylum:** Magnoliophyta  
**Class:** Magnoliopsida  
**Order:** Solanales  
**Family:** Polemoniaceae

**FEATURES**
The cleft phlox is also known as sand phlox. This perennial plant has stems that spread over the ground and are much branched. The hairy stems are up to 12 inches long. Leaves are placed opposite each other along the stem. Each leaf is simple, very narrow, up to two inches long and less than one-fourth inch wide. Flowers are borne in the axils of the upper leaves. Each flower may be one and one-half inches wide. The flower has five, pale-purple petals that are notched at the tip. The fruit is a capsule.

**BEHAVIORS**
The cleft phlox may be found statewide in Illinois, although it is not common in the central counties. It grows in rocky woods, sandy soil and on limestone cliffs. This plant flowers from March through June.

**ILLINOIS RANGE**

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Aquatic Habitats
none

Woodland Habitats
coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats
none