Native Plant of the Month

Farewell-to-Spring
Clarkia amoena

• Full bloom in summer when many other plants are past their flowering stage, Farewell-to-Spring reminds us that the profusion of spring flowers is past.
• Also called “herald-of-summer” or “summer’s darling” for similar reasons.
• A member of the genus named to honor William Clark for a similar native plant, Clarkia pulchella, was first gathered along the Lewis & Clark trail. “Amoena” means “charming.”
• Butterflies and bees welcome this flower for its nectar and pollen.

Landscape Value
Clarkia is a summer annual that reseeds happily in moist, well-drained soil, and thrives in a full sun site, where moisture remains constant during its early growing season.

Seeds can be directly-sown in fall or spring (seedlings don’t like to be transplanted), and will do best in sandy, unfertilized soil.

Plant en masse or mixed with other summer flowering plants such as yarrow, goldenrod, pearly everlasting, and Cooley’s hedge nettle. Add native grasses such as Roemer’s fescue and tufted hairgrass for a meadow. Plant at the edge of flowering shrubs such as mock orange, oceanspray, and serviceberry as a border.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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