Siberian Miner’s-Lettuce

Also called Candy Flower
Claytonia (or Montia) sibirica

- An early flowering annual covered with white and pink “candy-striped” flowers.
- A widespread native plant that is easily identified by its lance to egg-shaped leaves arranged on opposite sides of the stem, one of our few common annuals.
- The leaves and flowers are highly edible and make a delicious wild spring salad.
- Siberian miner’s-lettuce is closely related to common miner’s-lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata) which has round leaves that wrap around the stem.

Landscape Value

This is an easy-to-grow self-sowing annual plant, best planted en masse with later blooming perennials or grasses to follow, such as foamflower and tufted hairgrass, or mixed sparingly with other early blooming forest groundcover plants such as bleeding heart, false lily of the valley, star-flowered false Solomon’s seal, piggyback and native violets. Siberian miner’s-lettuce prefers a rich moist soil in the under-story or edges of forests. After flowering it can become leggy and unattractive as it returns to the earth so it is advisable to mix with other groundcovers to follow.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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