

Chelone lyonii Pursh
Pink Turtlehead

If you want a perennial with an absolutely unique and unforgettable flower *Chelone lyonii* is for you. Not only does it take its common name from the shape of the flower, but the genus name (*Chelone*) also refers to a tortoise. This relative of the popular snapdragon occurs naturally in moist woods, meadows, and along stream banks in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. Unlike its white-flowered cousin *Chelone glabra*, which grows only in wet areas, pink turtlehead will perform well in more well drained soils in partial shade to full sun. Keep in mind, though, that constantly moist soils are best and drier conditions will cause the plant to struggle and flower later.

Speaking of flowering, this two to three foot tall clump former flowers late in the summer and, if the summer has been dry, may still be flowering when the first snow hits.



This species should be fairly easy to find since some good cultivars of it have been developed.