

Plant "Imagination"



Epimedium x rubrum (*Barrenwort*)



Mertensia virginica '*Virginia bluebells*'

This *Epimedium x rubrum* hybrid (red barrenwort) is a cross between *E. alpinum* and *E. grandiflorum*. It is a rhizomatous, clump-forming perennial which typically grows 8-12" tall and is primarily used as a ground cover or edger in shady or woodland areas. It has heart shaped leaves and red and yellow flowers in spring held on wiry stems. Its leaves emerge red tinted, age to green, then auburn in autumn. Epimediums are commonly called bishop's hat or barrenwort.

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Prefers loose, organically rich loams with even moisture in part shade. Tolerates drought once established. Rhizomatous perennial which spreads faster than most other epimediums. Cut back any remaining old foliage in late winter.

The *Mertensia virginica* matures to 2' in height and has bell-shaped flowers that will transition from pink to purple and finally to blue. The blooms will last for many weeks in early spring (April and May) and will go dormant by mid-summer. Virginia Bluebells prefer soils typical of a woodland - a little on the wet side. It attracts female Bumblebees that fly in early spring.

Do you have an unusual plant? If so take several digital pictures and send them to me along with the Latin name.

"Imagine" your favorite plant featured here!