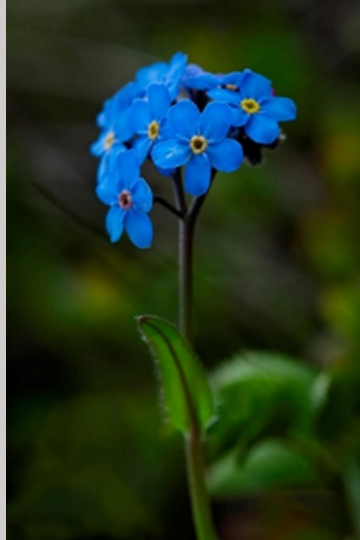


State Flower



The Forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*), Alaska's state flower, is a small clump-forming plant that grows 5 to 12" high in mountain meadows. The fragrant flowers have five rounded blue petals, that are a quarter to a third of an inch wide. They have a white inner ring and a yellow center. The best time to spot forget-me-nots is midsummer, from late June to late July.

Alaskans believe that their state flower, the alpine Forget-me-not is symbolic of the spirit of the state's pioneers; after all, they were the ones who originally selected the small, blue-flowering perennial to represent their new home. The Klondike gold rush spawned the Grand Igloo, a group of men that wrote the Forget-me-not into their constitution as their official flower. The Igloo's women's auxiliary followed suit with their constitution. When it became obvious that Alaska was headed for territorial status, both groups naturally felt the flower would provide the best emblem for the Alaska territory. In 1917 both groups got their wish, and the little forget-me-not was signed into law as the official floral emblem. Ten years later the beauty of the Forget-me-not's blue emblazoned Alaska's flag. Alaska first became a U.S. state in 1959, at which time the Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the Alaska state flower and floral emblem.

