

Campanulas compared

Overall ratings:

- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Fair
- ★ Poor

TRIAL PARAMETERS

Since 1998, the Chicago Botanic Garden has evaluated 117 different campanulas in our comparative trials.

HOW LONG: A minimum of four years

CRITERIA: Besides observing their ornamental traits, we regularly monitored the plants to see how well they grew and adapted to the environmental and soil conditions in our garden. We also kept a close eye on any disease or pest problems and assessed plant injury or losses over winter.

ZONE: 5b

CONDITIONS: Full sun; well-drained, alkaline, clay-loam soil

CARE: We provided minimal care only, thereby allowing the plants to thrive or fail under natural conditions. Alas, despite repeated tries in some cases, 49 campanulas did not live through the full four-year trial (see a sample of plants in the chart on p. 37).

Overall rating	Name	Height	Width	Flower color	Flower shape	Flower size	Bloom period	Flower production
★★	<i>Campanula</i> 'Dwarf Tornado'	6 inches	20 inches	Deep lavender	Bell	1 inch wide	Early summer to midsummer	Heavy
★★	<i>C.</i> 'Kent Belle'	40 inches	30 inches	Violet-blue	Tubular	2 inches long	Early summer to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C.</i> 'Purple Sensation'	27 inches	30 inches	Deep purple	Tubular	3 inches long	Late spring to early summer	Heavy
★★★	<i>C.</i> 'Samantha'	12 inches	20 inches	Purple-blue	Bowl	1¼ inches wide	Late spring to midsummer	Heavy
★★★★	<i>C.</i> 'Sarastro'	24 inches	24 inches	Violet-blue	Tubular	2¾ inches long	Late spring to early summer	Heavy
★★	<i>C.</i> 'Stevie Ray'	30 inches	24 inches	Lavender	Tubular	2½ inches long	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★	<i>C. carpatica</i> 'Blaue Clips'	9 inches	18 inches	Violet-blue	Bowl	1¾ inches wide	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★	<i>C. carpatica</i> 'China Doll'	10 inches	24 inches	Lavender	Bowl	2¼ inches wide	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★	<i>C. carpatica</i> 'Suzie'	6 inches	24 inches	Light lavender	Bowl	2 inches wide	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★	<i>C. carpatica</i> 'White Uniform'	7 inches	22 inches	White	Bowl	1¾ inches wide	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. glomerata</i> 'Caroline'	15 inches	18 inches	Pale lavender	Bell	1¼ inches wide	Late spring to early summer	Heavy
★★★	<i>C. glomerata</i> 'Joan Elliot'	21 inches	20 inches	Violet	Bell	1½ inches wide	Midspring to midsummer	Heavy
★★★	<i>C. glomerata</i> 'Odessa'	24 inches	26 inches	Dark purple	Bell	1 inch wide	Late spring to early summer	Heavy
★★★	<i>C. glomerata</i> 'Snow'	24 inches	28 inches	White	Bell	¾ inch wide	Early summer to midsummer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. lactiflora</i> 'Loddon Anna'	32 inches	38 inches	Pink	Bell	1¾ inches wide	Early summer to late summer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. lactiflora</i> 'Pouffe'	18 inches	34 inches	Lavender	Bell	1½ inches wide	Early summer to late summer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. lactiflora</i> 'Prichard's Variety'	18 inches	30 inches	Violet-blue	Bell	1¼ inches wide	Early summer to late summer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. lactiflora</i> 'Superba'	24 inches	36 inches	Violet-blue	Bell	1½ inches wide	Early summer to late summer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. latifolia</i> var. <i>macrantha</i>	32 inches	18 inches	Purple	Bell	1½ inches wide	Late spring to early summer	Moderate
★	<i>C. persicifolia</i> 'Alba Coronata'	22 inches	12 inches	White	Cup, double	2 inches wide	Late spring to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. portenschlagiana</i> 'Resholdt's Variety'	4 inches	18 inches	Violet-blue	Bell	¾ inch wide	Midspring to early summer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. poscharskyana</i> 'Blue Gown'	5 inches	10 inches	Purple-blue	Star	1 inch wide	Late spring to early summer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. poscharskyana</i> 'Blue Waterfall'	10 inches	27 inches	Lavender-blue	Star	1 inch wide	Late spring to midfall	Heavy
★★★	<i>C. poscharskyana</i> 'E. H. Frost'	10 inches	24 inches	White	Star	1 inch wide	Late spring to early summer	Moderate
★★	<i>C. poscharskyana</i> 'Stella'	6 inches	12 inches	Deep violet-blue	Star	1 inch wide	Late spring to early summer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. punctata</i> 'Alina's Double'	18 inches	Spreading	Pale magenta	Tubular, double	1¾ inches long	Early summer to late summer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. punctata</i> 'Wedding Bells'	18 inches	Spreading	White	Tubular, double	1¾ inches long	Early summer to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. punctata</i> f. <i>rubriflora</i> 'Bowl of Cherries'	19 inches	Spreading	Purple-red	Tubular	2 inches long	Early summer to late summer	Heavy
★★★	<i>C. punctata</i> f. <i>rubriflora</i> 'Cherry Bells'	15 inches	Spreading	Purple-red	Tubular	2½ inches long	Early summer to midfall	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. punctata</i> f. <i>rubriflora</i> 'Vienna Festival'	31 inches	Spreading	Reddish purple	Tubular	2 inches long	Late spring to late summer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. rotundifolia</i> 'Olympica'	13 inches	13 inches	Violet-blue	Bell	1 inch wide	Midspring to late fall	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. takesimana</i>	30 inches	36 inches	Creamy white	Tubular	2 inches long	Early summer to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. takesimana</i> 'Beautiful Trust'	16 inches	Spreading	White	Divided bell	2 inches long	Late spring to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. takesimana</i> 'Elizabeth'	27 inches	Spreading	Pink	Tubular	2¾ inches long	Late spring to midsummer	Moderate
★★★	<i>C. trachelium</i> 'Bernice'	18 inches	14 inches	Violet-blue	Cup, double	1½ inches wide	Late spring to midsummer	Moderate