



Bottle Gentian

Gentiana andrewsii

Light:	Full sun, partial shade
Soil:	Clay, loam, sand
Moisture:	Moist, wet
Benefits:	Pollinators, Deer Resistant
Height:	1' to 2'
Blooms:	Aug, Sep, Oct
Zones:	3-6
Color:	Blue-purple
Spacing:	1'
Root:	Fibrous

Bottle gentian is a slow-growing, moisture-loving plant with an unusual distinction. The flower's petals do not open naturally but must be pried open manually, typically by bumblebees, for pollination to occur.

Bottle gentian's beauty has made it popular among conventional gardeners, and there's no reason native gardeners can't also take the plunge. It does tend to flop, so consider tucking it among sturdier plants, such as mountain mint.

Photo credits: Brian Arthur, above; Gilles Ayotte, below