

**Throughout Virginia**, the emergence of forest wildflowers heralds the end of winter and the dawn of a new growing season.

Every spring, rivers of colorful flowers bloom across the the understory of our forests, soaking up the sun's rays before the leaves unfurl on the trees above them. Their transient blooms delight both pollinators and humans alike, and are perhaps Virginia's most striking natural phenomenon.



Rue anemone - *Thalictrum thalictroides*

Explore the woodland section of the Native Plant Trail and enjoy the delicate beauty of our state's spring wildflowers. Use this photographic guide and the key features listed to identify wildflowers in this area.

*Feel free to look closely and take pictures, but please do not touch or pick these delicate plants and flowers!*

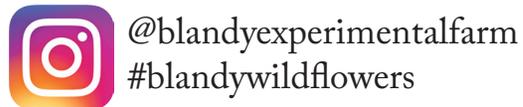
Identify more plants and share your observations online!



The citizen science app iNaturalist is a free resource to help you identify more plants not in this brochure, and contribute to citizen science programs in the area! Just download the free app from Google Play or the App Store to get started.

- Upload your photos of plants and wildlife to get suggestions on possible IDs.
- Join the 'Blandy Experimental Farm' project to share your observations with our scientists and other guests.
- Learn from other outdoor enthusiasts and contribute to citizen science projects!

Take an interesting photo? Tag us on social media!



## The Wildflowers of Spring



Nancy Larrick Crosby  
**Native Plant Trail**  
at the State Arboretum of Virginia

**Plant Identification Guide**



**White Trillium** (*Trillium grandiflorum*) - Exactly 3 leaves, each at 45 degree angle from each other. One flower per plant, with three white petals.



**Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia virginica*) - Very small white flowers with pink lines on petals. Five petals per flower. Leaves long and narrow: shoestring-like.



**Virginia Bluebell** (*Mertensia virginica*) - Cluster of blue or pink, drooping, bell-shaped flowers. Very large, hairy oval leaves up to 18 inches long.



**Wild Stonecrop** (*Sedum ternatum*) - Low growing plant. Leaves round, fleshy and succulent-like. Spreading branches of white flowers, each with four petals.



**Wild Blue Phlox** (*Phlox divaricata*) - Clusters of pink, purple, or blue flowers with five petals. Simple round leaves located opposite to each other on the stem.



**Jacob's Ladder** (*Polemonium reptans*) - Clusters of blue, five-petaled flowers. Rows of opposite, oval leaves about 1 inch long. Green pods will remain after flowers drop.



**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) - White flower with yellow stamens, about 2 inches across. One round leaf with very deep lobes. Leaves often unfurl after the flowers.



**Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*) - Pink-purple flowers with five petals. Leaves roughly hand shaped, with 5-7 long 'fingers,' or lobes.



**Golden Ragwort** (*Packera aurea*) - Clusters of yellow sunflower-like flowers on stems 1-2 feet tall. Round leaves at base with fine teeth along the edges.



**Goldenseal** (*Hydrastis canadensis*) - Large, fuzzy, umbrella-like leaves. One small flower per plant with no petals, but about 40 white, stalk-like stamens.



**Herb Robert** (*Geranium robertianum*) - Small, pink, five-petaled flowers. Very hairy leaves and stems, often reddish in color. Leaves are finely divided.



**Wood Poppy** (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) - All parts of flower are yellow, 4 petals. Leaves about 6 inches long with several deep divisions and lobes along the edges.



**Early Saxifrage** (*Micranthes virginensis*) - White flowers on a tall, very hairy stem. Toothed leaves only at base of stem. Fragrant flowers with five petals each.



**Bleeding Heart** (*Dicentra eximia*) - Pink, heart shaped flowers that dangle from stems. Delicate, finely divided leaves.



**Largeflower Bellwort** (*Uvularia grandiflora*) - Drooping yellow flowers. Oval shaped leaves that 'clasp' the stem, fully wrapping around it.



**Cutleaf Toothwort** (*Cardamine concatenata*) - Clusters of very small white flowers with 4 petals each. Long, narrow leaves with coarse teeth on the edges.



**Toadshade** (*Trillium sessile*) - Exactly 3 leaves, often with mottled dark spots. One closed up red flower per plant. Often forms dense clumps.



**Wild Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) - Unique red and yellow flowers. Leaves in clusters of 3 small leaflets each. Smaller Leaflets are usually lobed into 3 sections.