



Trillium grandiflorum

Large-flowered or Great White Trillium

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This showy trillium, with flower diameters up to four inches, is a familiar spring native wildflower in the Mid-Atlantic* woodlands of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Appalachian Plateaus. The Virginia Native Plant Society named Great White Trillium Wildflower of the Year in 1996.



Perennial	Colony and Close-up of Flower
Height: ½–1½ feet	 
Spread: ¾–1 foot	
Bloom Color: White turning light pink with age	
Characteristics	
Spring ephemeral , herbaceous perennial	
Each sturdy, erect, unbranched stem ** with whorl of 3 ovate , palmately-veined , green, foliaceous bracts	
Single, 3 white- petaled & 3 green- sepaled flower held on a pedicel well above bracts April to June	
Ovoid berries *** July–August; seeds spread by ants	
Spreads—if undisturbed—very slowly by rhizomes	
Attributes	
Averse to transplantation; no serious pests—but slugs can be a nuisance—or diseases; deer seldom to rarely severely damage but are more likely to notice large-flowered over smaller trilliums	<div>*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native to DC, rare in the DE Piedmont, reported in seven MD counties, and mostly found in the western half of PA. In VA, it is common in the mountains and rare in the inner Piedmont. It is not native to NoVA although it may grow where it has escaped cultivation. **US Forest Service explains that the “stem” is an extension of the rhizome. It “produces tiny, scale like leaves (cataphylls). The above-ground plant is technically a flowering scape,...” *** According to the <i>Flora of Virginia</i> and the <i>Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas</i>.</div>
Foliage dies to ground in summer, especially in dry soil (do not remove foliage until spent)	
From seed: 2–3 yrs to develop whorls; 7 yrs to bloom	
Attracts insects rarely; large colonies provide cover for small mammals; larval host for 2 moth species	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements : Deep, rich, well-drained	
Light Requirements : Partial Shade, Shade	
Water Requirements : Moist	
Prefers shade of deciduous or mixed-species forest	<div>Excellent Replacement for <i>Muscari</i> - Grape Hyacinth</div>
Needs regular watering; apply leaf mulch in fall	
Use in shady borders or woodland gardens w/ ferns	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a-8b	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Longwood Gardens and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens



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