

# Trillium grandiflorum

## Large-flowered or Great White Trillium

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.

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Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic  
  
Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia  
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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 <a href="#">ephemeral</a> , herbaceous <a href="#">perennial</a>	
Each sturdy, erect, unbranched <a href="#">stem</a> ** with <a href="#">whorl</a> of 3 <a href="#">ovate</a> , <a href="#">palmately-veined</a> , green, <a href="#">foliaceous bracts</a>	
Single, 3 white- <a href="#">petaled</a> & 3 green- <a href="#">sepaled</a> flower held on a <a href="#">pedicel</a> well above bracts April to June	
<a href="#">Ovoid berries</a> *** July–August; seeds spread by ants	
Spreads—if undisturbed—very slowly by <a href="#">rhizomes</a>	
Attributes	
Averse to transplantation; no serious pests—but slugs can be a nuisance—or diseases; <a href="#">deer</a> seldom to rarely severely damage but are more likely to notice large-flowered over smaller trilliums	
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; <a href="#">larval</a> host for 2 moth species	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Deep, rich, well-drained	<i>Muscari</i> - Grape Hyacinth
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Partial Shade, Shade	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is <a href="#">native</a> 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.
Prefers shade of <a href="#">deciduous</a> or mixed-species forest	**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,...”
Needs regular watering; apply leaf <a href="#">mulch</a> in fall	***According to the <i>Flora of Virginia</i> and the <i>Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas</i> .
Use in shady borders or woodland gardens w/ ferns	
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : 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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