

***Trillium Ovatum*, Western Trillium**

General Botanical Characteristics

Trillium Ovatum, is a perennial herb plant that can grow up to 20 cm -45 cm (8"-20"). The plant blossoms into a single large white flower with three petals, three long narrow sepals, and a three-parted stigma surrounded by six stamens. Three egg-shaped leaves are a few centimeters beneath the flower.



Seasonal Development

The flower blooms from April to May. As the flowers age (meaning after it is pollinated), the flower changes from white to pink in color, then to purplish. The fruit is a green colored capsule with lots of seeds.

Distribution / Habitat

Western Trillium's North American range extends from southern British Columbia to central California eastward to Colorado and up to Southwest Alberta. It grows well in moist to wet woods and open areas at low to mid elevations. Partly shaded places and soils that are deep and damp are good for growth too.

Interesting Facts

- "Tri-llium" refers to the three leaves, three petals of the plant, and the Latin word "ovatum" refers to the egg-shaped leaves.
- Also known as the "wake-robin" trillium because it blooms in Spring.
- Native people of British Columbia used the root extract for eye medicine.

References

Natural History Research Paper, 11/11/02,
http://rbcml.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/nh_papers/nativeplants/trilovat.html

Plantwatch Presents Western Trillium, 11/11/02,
<http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/pwatch/westtr.htm#ETHNO>

Photo from Dunn gardens-Trillium ovatum, 11/11/02,
http://www.dunngardens.org/early_spring/trillium_ovatum.html