“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners”

Trillium grandiflorum by Brenda Huff

Common name: Large-Flowered Trillium
Family: Lillacea

I went on a field trip to the G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area on April 29, 2006 to see what was described as "Millions of Trilliums" and believe me, it did not disappoint. The trilliums were everywhere in addition to a great companion plant, the Mayapple. The G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area is along the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Front Royal and Skyline Drive. The Thompson site is known as one of the most dense and extensive stands numbering 18 to 22 million of the large-flowered trillium in North America.

From that first visit, I was hooked and have purchased trilliums from a local plant sale which guarantees that the plants were not collected from the wild.

The stem of the large-flowered trillium has a whorl of three dark green leaves which lasts until late summer. The beautiful white flower emerges above the three leaves in mid-April until mid-May and are 2 to 4 inches across. The three white flower petals can turn pink with age.

Perennial
Zones: 3 to 8
Woodlands with rich moist soil.
Companion plants: Mayapples, native ferns, and bloodroot plus other shade-loving natives.
Light: Partial sun to partial shade.
Range in height from 6 to 20 inches.
Trillium blooms attract bees and butteries.

Photo by Nadine Scott
Resources: Virginia Native Plant Society and Native Plants of the Northeast

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