

Trillium undulatum painted trillium, painted wakerobin

Why Observe?

Painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*) is native to North America from Quebec south to Georgia and west to Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Its showy flowers emerge in early spring and are easy to identify.



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Tips for Identification

When in flower, painted trillium is easily distinguished from other trillium species by its white petals with pink-red markings at the base.

When not in flower, the presence of a short petiole (stalk) on the leaf distinguishes this species from *T. erectum* and *T. grandiflorum* which share its range and whose leaves are sessile (stalk-less).



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Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a “?” for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.

Nature's Notebook Phenophase Photo Guide

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Initial growth

New growth of the plant is visible after a period of no growth (winter or drought), either from above-ground buds with green tips, or new green or white shoots breaking through the soil surface. Growth is considered "initial" on each bud or shoot until the first leaf has fully unfolded. For seedlings, "initial" growth includes the presence of the one or two small, round or elongated leaves (cotyledons) before the first true leaf has unfolded.



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Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.

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Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Trillium undulatum*, the fruit is a fleshy capsule that changes from green to bright red and drops from the plant.

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Leaves

One or more live, fully unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. For seedlings, consider only true leaves and do not count the one or two small, round or elongated leaves (cotyledons) that are found on the stem almost immediately after the seedling germinates. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

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Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.



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Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Trillium undulatum*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned bright red and readily drops from the plant when touched.

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Phenophases not pictured: Recent fruit or seed drop