

## ***Trillium parviflorum*** V.G. Soukup

synonym: *Trillium chloropetalum* (Torr.) Howell

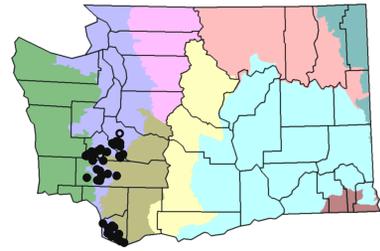
(misapplied)

small-flowered trillium

Liliaceae - lily family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G2G3 / S2S3



**General Description:** Erect, rhizomatous perennial up to 3 dm tall.

Leaves 3, mottled (becoming obscure with age), in a whorl at the top of the stem, sessile, ovate, 6.5-16 x 5-8 cm.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flower solitary, resting directly atop leaves, with a spicy, clovelike fragrance. Sepals 3, green, lanceolate, 16-25 x 4-8 mm, persistent. Petals 3, white, sometimes purplish basally, linear to linear-lanceolate, about twice as long as the sepals, 2.2-4.5 x 0.4-1 cm. Anthers greenish white, 9-11 mm. Ovary green or with some purple basally. Flowers late March to mid-May.

**Fruits:** Many seeded, fleshy, juicy capsule with a somewhat glossy surface, dark reddish purple, maroon or almost black, about 1 cm long. Fruits and sepals persist through August.

**Identification Tips:** This species mistakenly keys to *Trillium chloropetalum* in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973); however, *T. chloropetalum* has larger flowers, purple to brown anthers, purple ovaries, and does not occur in WA. *T. ovatum* leaves are not mottled, and its flowers are on pedicels (1) 2-8 cm long.

**Range:** Regional endemic from Pierce and Thurston cos., WA, south into the Willamette Valley, OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Moist, shady areas often dominated by hardwoods, commonly Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), or red alder (*Alnus rubra*). It may also occur at the edge of grand fir (*Abies grandis*) forests. Other associates include Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Siberian springbeauty (*Claytonia sibirica*), Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*), swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), false lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). The substrate is generally a moist alluvial soil covered with humus. Many sites are within the upland edge of riparian zones; these may undergo periodic winter flooding. Elevations in WA: 8-215 m (25-700 ft).

**Comments:** Throughout its range, this is an uncommon species of very local distribution with few, widely scattered populations. Threats include hydrologic change, livestock grazing, and development within or adjacent to the species' habitat. Maintenance of the hardwood overstory is key to retaining populations.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26; Soukup 1980.

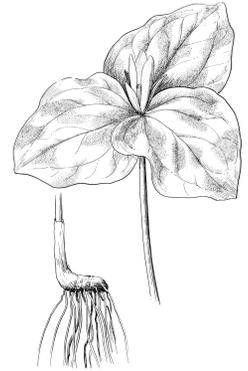


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