

***Viola glabella*, Woods Violet**

General Botanical Characteristics

Viola glabella, is commonly known as Stream Violet or Woods Violet. Woods Violet is a low (5cm -300 cm [2"-12"]) colony-forming perennial. Its pencil-thick, knobby green rhizomes can be found on, or just under, the surface of the soil. True roots extend from the lower surface of the rootstock and grip the soil. Its leaves swoop upwards from the end of the rootstock on 5cm-10 cm (2"-4") long petioles. Like those of many other violets, the leaf blades are kidney to heart shaped and toothed.



Seasonal Development

Woods Violet's blossoms open early in the spring before trees leaf out. A brownish capsule packed with seeds develops later. When ripe, the capsule explodes spreading the seeds away from the mother plant.

Distribution/Habitat

It ranges from southern Alaska to California on both sides of the Cascades. Woods violet's natural habitat includes moist woods and especially the edges of streams. It grows abundantly in moist sub alpine environments. At mid to low elevations, the violet is particularly common where deciduous trees form a major part of the forest canopy.

References

CalFlora Plant Database, November 2002, <http://www.calflora.org/>

Photo from Gerald and Buff Corsi, California Academy of Sciences, November 2002, <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/>