



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Pacific trillium, White or Western trillium

Scientific Name: *Trillium ovatum*

Plant Family: Liliaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Pacific trillium is a perennial herb that grows from short, thick rhizomes to attain heights generally around 30 cm (12 in).

Leaves: Typically whorled in 3, at top of otherwise naked stem. Glabrous, ovate-rhombic shape, 7 to 12 cm (3 to 5 in) by 5 to 20 cm (2 to 8 in). Main veins prominent, leaves can be blotched and mottled.

Flowers: Three petals, generally whitish but can vary to pink, purple or dark red; can have pink/blush markings. Petals lanceolate in shape, three sepals, green and lanceolate. Flower solitary, stalked, facing upward or nodding, odorless.

Habitat: Generally prefers moist and shaded habitats at low to mid-elevations, associated with forest understory, especially redwood and mixed-evergreen forests.

Bloom time: Early-mid spring

Information sources:

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture
(biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/collections/list.php)
USDA, NRCS, The PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)
Native American Ethnobotany (herb.umd.umich.edu)
Flora and Fauna of North America (www.fna.org/FNA/)
The jepsen Manual: Higher Plants of California

Did you know? It is said that Paiute native Americans of central Oregon, as well as other tribes in the western U.S., have used root poultices of *Trillium ovatum* as a wash for sore eyes.



Photograph by Margaret Williams @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photograph by Gerald and Buff Corsi @ California Academy of Sciences

Phenological observation:

First Flower

Distribution Area:

