



Anemone acutiloba* – *Hepatica

COMMON NAME: Hepatica, Sharp-lobed hepatica

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Anemone acutiloba* – the Greek word *anemos* is wind and *acutiloba* refers to the pointed leaves. The common name of *hepatica* comes from the fancied resemblance of the 3-lobed leaves to the liver.

FLOWER: white, pink, lavender with six (usually) petal-like sepals. The color tends to fade with age.

BLOOMING PERIOD: April, but maybe March with global warming! This is one of the earliest spring flowers.

SIZE: 4 to 6 inches

BEHAVIOR: This is a perennial herb with its distinctive 3-lobed leaves and fibrous roots. It will spread from seed and should be divided in fall.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Does best in rich, moist soil and dense shade of maple forests, but tolerates less shady habitats and drier, rocky soils. Look for it on steep, rocky hillsides and steep banks of creeks.

NATURAL RANGE; Nova Scotia to northern Florida, west to Manitoba, Iowa, Missouri and even in Alaska. In Wisconsin it is more common in the southern 2/3 of the state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Old leaves may still be present in early spring, but will be looking kind of coppery. Then furry stems unfurl and hold the fragrant pastel flowers. The new leaves appear after flowering and will remain sort of green until the following spring.

SUGGESTED CARE: Provide ample water in spring and fall, especially the first few years. Cover in winter with light mulch of maple leaves, but remove the mulch in mid to late March.

COMPANION PLANTS: trillium, Solomon's plume, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, wild geranium, bloodroot, troutlily, bedstraw, rue anemone

SPECIAL NOTE: There is a similar special, *Anemone Americana*, with round-lobed leaves.