



***Trillium recurvatum* – Prairie Trillium**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Trillium

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Trillium recurvatum* - from the Latin *tres* for “three” and *lillium* for “lily” with *recurvatum* meaning “recurved.”

FLOWER: Dark red, maroon

BLOOMING PERIOD: late April, early May

SIZE: 12-18 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Tends to form clumps with its thick underground rhizomes. Division is best done in late summer or early fall when it is dormant.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Best on rich soils. Can be grown in full sun, but tolerates some sun.

NATURAL RANGE: The Mississippi River basin, Ohio to Iowa, south to Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. It only grows in the most southern parts of Wisconsin and is not very common; listed as *threatened* in our state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Three leaves at the top of a stalk with the red-maroon flower growing directly from the center of the three leaves. The leaves are especially interesting because of their mottled appearance. The flower has an unpleasant odor.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easy to grow. Water well during first season.

COMPANION PLANTS: sugar maple, white ash, red oak, choke cherry, basswood and American elm for trees. Wild leek, spring beauty, toothwort, white trout lily, wild geranium, mertensia, sweet cicely, Jacob’s ladder, Solomon’s seal and other spring woodland flowers.

NOTE: The prairie part of the name is somewhat of a misnomer because this trillium grows in woodlands, but it does grow in states that have prairies!