

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Erythronium albidium* – White Trout Lily**

COMMON NAME: White Trout Lily, White Fawn Lily

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Erythronium albidium* – from Greek word for "red" because the plant is similar to a European plant with red flowers and *albidium* for "white"

FLOWER: Single nodding bell-shaped white flower, yellow at its base and with sepals flaring upwards.

BLOOMING PERIOD: April to early May

SIZE: 4 to 8 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Propagates by offshoots from the base of the corm. Often forms large clumps of leaves, but few flowers.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Evenly moist, rich woodland soils in deciduous hardwood forests.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern United States

SPECIAL FEATURES: The leaves have a mottled appearance that fades as the season advances until the plant goes dormant in late May. Immature plants have a single leaf while mature ones have two. Another name for trout lily is "dog tooth violet", that seems to come from the tiny corms formed at the base of the plant.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plant corms 2-3 inches deep and 4-5 inches apart in the fall. Clumps of plants that include many leaves but few flowers should be divided.

COMPANION PLANTS: Wild leek, spring beauty, toothwort, wild geranium, Dutchman's breeches, false rue anemone, wild blue phlox, mayapple.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Yellow trout lily (*erythronium americanum*) differs mainly in that the flower is yellow. It is more common in northern Wisconsin.