

Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)

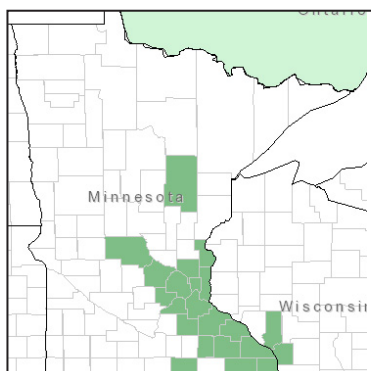
Family: Buttercup (*Ranunculus*)

DESCRIPTION: Typically found in deciduous forests, this perennial spring ephemeral provides pollen to a wide range of native bees and flies from April to early June, and adds spring interest to woodland gardens.

USES: An attractive groundcover for shade gardens, rue anemone can grow under trees including oaks, maples, basswoods, birch and poplar. Its delicate flowers offer pollen — but not nectar — to native flies and several kinds of bees (including honey, carpenter, cuckoo, mason, sweat and mining bees). It goes dormant during summer heat. All fresh parts of the plant are considered poisonous. Historically, infusions made from its roots treated diarrhea and vomiting.

REFERENCES:

- [Flora of North America](#)
- [Illinois Wildflowers](#)
- [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)
- [Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
- [USDA Plants Database](#)



Range Map Credit: NRCS Plants Database



STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FACU

ID: Basal leaves of this 4- to 8-inch-tall spring ephemeral have distinctive, three-lobed leaflets. Five to 10 white to dark pink petal-like sepals appear from April through early June.

Planting Recommendations

Rue anemone grows best in dappled shade and dry to moderately moist, humus-rich soils. It is often helpful to amend soils with leaf compost when planting. A good choice for woodland gardens and in plantings under deciduous trees, it also can be grown in shady rock gardens. Plants are available in containers or as bare-root tubers from native plant nurseries. Seeds can be dormant-seeded in October or November, or they can be cold-and-moist stratified for three months in a refrigerator.

Plants usually take a few years to flower after seeding. In early spring or late fall, rue anemone plants can be propagated by division. If plants will be divided in the fall, it's best to flag them in late spring so they're more easily found after the plants go dormant. Divided plants take a few years to build sufficient roots before they can be divided again. It is important to water plants after they are divided. Rue anemone is no longer common; avoid disturbing plants found in natural habitats.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Woodland Meadow rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*) grows up to 30 inches tall. Wood anemone's (*Anemone quinquefolia*) leaflets are coarsely toothed with fine hairs. False rue anemone's (*Enemion biternatum*) leaflets are more deeply lobed; its flowers have only five sepals.

Developed by Lorinda Balfanz

As horticulturalist at the Minnesota Governor's Residence, she has implemented sustainable practices benefiting soil health and pollinators.



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