

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

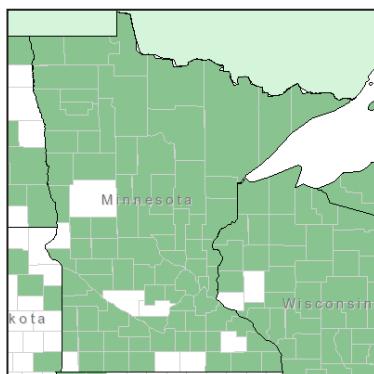
Family: Rose (Rosaceae)

DESCRIPTION: Coexisting with native grasses, sedges and wildflowers, wild strawberry is a versatile groundcover for native gardens and restorations. Its oval, white flowers bloom April through June; its leaves provide reddish fall color. Tolerating a range of environmental conditions, it's common across Minnesota and eastern North America, preferring dry, open fields, prairies, meadows and woodland edges.

USES: The fruit is highly desirable to humans, and a good source of vitamin C. Wildlife eat the fruit, leaves and other plant parts. Pollinators — including the skipper family of butterflies and several fly, bee, moth and wasp species — feed on flowers, nectar and pollen. A tea made from the leaves and roots has been used to treat intestine, kidney and liver ailments.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Illinois Wildflowers](#)



Range Map Credit: NRCS Plants Database



Photo Credit: Metro Blooms

STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FACU

ID: Radial flowers composed of five round or oval petals bloom on stalks that are usually shorter than the leaves. Trifoliate basal leaves are palmately compound and toothed. Teeth at leaves' tips are smaller than those on either side. Plants grow up to 8 inches tall.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) flowers rise above the leaves. Pointed, green sepals may extend beyond petals. Teeth at leaflets' tips are similar in size, often extending beyond adjacent teeth. The larger, egg-shaped fruit may be tasteless. The seeds (achenes) are on the surface instead of pitted.

Planting Recommendations

The species is a popular choice as an edging plant or as a groundcover mixed with wildflowers such as violets, Jacob's ladder and bluebells. Spreading by stolons (above-ground runners) and rhizomes, new plants form clumps just above the soil surface. As new growth appears in early spring, plants can be dug up and transplanted into areas of full

sun to partial shade and rich, well-drained soil. Containerized plants are available from native plant nurseries. Hybrid varieties crossed with a species from the Pacific Coast of North America and South America are cultivated for mass consumption. Lightly covering the soil around plants with straw or shredded leaves can help plants retain moisture and adapt to their new surroundings.

Developed by Dan Shaw

Dan Shaw is the senior ecologist and vegetation specialist at BWSR, where he has coordinated conservation programs focused on native vegetation establishment, invasive species management, pollinator habitat, habitat-friendly solar, water management and resiliency to climate change.



Shaw