Native Plant of the Month

Fawn lilies emerge in spring with mottled leaves and create a splendid show with unique lily-like blooms.

Landscape Value

Fawn lily is a charming woodland groundcover plant. Most of our Erythronium species tend to live in higher elevations but this lily thrives in lowland forests.

Fawn Lily is usually grown from an unusual corm, but can also be propagated from seed. It is easy to cultivate and will increase to form "delightful drifts of their lily-like splendor."*

Best grown in moist, shady parts of the garden, mixed with mosses, shooting star, and other native Erythroniums and lilies.

* Arthur R. Kruckeberg

Fawn Lily

Erythronium oregonum

- The mottled leaves resemble the spotted skin of a newborn fawn, the most likely reason for its name. Also said to be named for the leaves that appear like the "pricked ears of a fawn."
- Fawn lily is a native species of the westside lowland forest.
- Tentatively listed as extirpated in Seattle, this species still occurs naturally in eastern King County, and is now being re-introduced in Seattle habitat restoration projects.