Native Plant of the Month

Native Wild Violets

Viola species

- The Pacific Northwest is home to many different native violet species. Most are found in moist forest understories.
- The flower shape and bright color invites our bumblebees and hummingbirds to share its sweet nectar in early spring.
- Violet flowers and leaves have a long history of human use for food and medicine.
- There are dozens of related non-native species familiar as ornamental plants in our gardens.

Landscape Value

Native wild violets provide a lovely groundcover that is easy to establish in the garden, especially in borders and forest understories. Underground rhizomes help this plant to spread throughout the garden.

Very low growing, it is best placed among rockery and nurselogs, and mixed with groundcover perennials such as fringecup, deer fern, bleeding heart, Siberian miner’s-lettuce, enchanter’s nightshade and foamflower.

This is a tough little plant that will take the extremes of our climate with very little care, once established.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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