

## What is blooming in the Pacific Northwest in April?

**Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)** - Mostly found in western North America, from

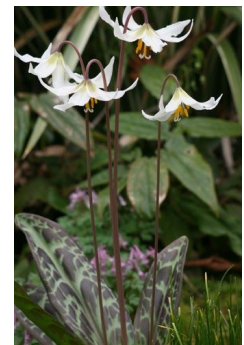
southern Canada down to central California; Western Trillium is a perennial herbaceous plant that spreads by means of underground rhizomes in moist, wooded areas; the flower opens white and becomes pink with age; while they are beautiful to look at they are also extremely fragile, and picking them seriously injures the plant by preventing the leaf-like bracts from producing food for the next year, often effectively killing the plant and ensuring none will grow in its place; Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants.



**Western Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)** - The common name refers to the skunk-like odor of the sap and the fetid odor of the flowers, which draws flies as pollinators; the short, fleshy underground stem is eaten by animals; lives in cool swamps & bogs; found in the NW part of North America from Alaska down to California



**Oregon Fawn Lily (*Erythronium oregonum*)** - This plant is a common mid-spring flowering perennial found from Northwestern CA through Alaska/Canada; grows in light woods and open meadows at low elevations; pollinated by bees and butterflies



**Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)** - Salmonberry ranges on the west coast from Alaska to northern California; the name of the plant comes from the colour of the fruit; the flower is attractive to bees and hummingbirds; berries provide food for songbirds, game birds, and large and small mammals (bears love them)



**Red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)** - Red Flowering Currant is found mostly on the west side of the Cascades from southern British Columbia to the coast ranges of central California; it is mostly found in dry, open woods; the flower is a nectar source for hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees



**Pacific Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*)** - This perennial is found from California to Canada; all parts of this plant are toxic (causes minor skin irritation when touched); seeds are spread by ants and hummingbirds love the flowers



**Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)** - this evergreen plant is native to the western part of North America and often occurs in the understory of Douglas Fir forests; the fruit that comes after the flowers is known to be used by some in jellies; Oregon Grape attracts bees and hummingbirds



**Stream Violet/Yellow Wood Violet (*Viola glabella*)** - this pretty plant is all over the northwestern United States; the heart-shaped or kidney-shaped leaves are toothed and have sharply-pointed tips; they may or may not be hairy, and their upper surface is shiny; stream violet grows along streams and in moist clearings, glades, and forests, at all elevations



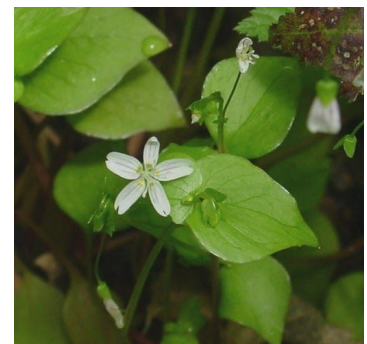
**Angled bittercress (*Cardamine angulata*)** - this common perennial is found in forests and moist riverbanks in western North America from Northern California to southern Alaska; it seems to be one of the first flowering plants in the springtime in Washington



**Redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*)** - this plant is native to moist Douglas-fir and coast redwood forests of western North America from southwestern Canada down to California; the leaves of *redwood sorrel* are known to have been eaten by the Cowlitz, Quileute and Quinault peoples of SW Washington; like spinach, redwood sorrel contains mildly toxic oxalic acid; being adapted to shady environments, redwood sorrel is capable of photosynthesis at low light levels.



**Siberian Miner's Lettuce/Candy flower (*Claytonia sibirica*)** - native to Siberian as well as the western U.S; found in moist coniferous woods and by streambanks; leaves are edible raw and contain vitamin C



***Try to find these native flowers as you walk around your neighborhood's natural spaces. Check out which birds, insects and animals these flowers attract. Notice the colors and the smells.***