

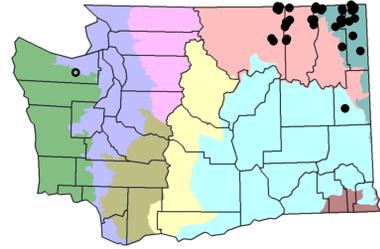
Viola renifolia A. Gray

kidney-leaf white violet

Violaceae - violet family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



General Description: Perennial from short ascending rootstocks; lacking stems, horizontal rhizomes, and stolons. Leaves kidney-shaped, indented at the base, 2-6 cm broad, and somewhat downy, especially underneath; margins with small rounded teeth. Petioles 3-15 cm long; stipules 3-10 mm long.

Floral Characteristics: Peduncles usually shorter than the leaves. Corolla 10-15 mm long; petals white, the lower 3 with purple streaks, all beardless. Style beardless, slightly bilobed. Blooms late May through August.

Fruits: Capsules purplish, explosively dehiscent; seeds brown.

Identification Tips: *Viola canadensis*, *V. macloskeyi*, and *V. palustris* also have white flowers. However, *V. canadensis* has heart-shaped leaves, from petioles up to 30 cm long, and petals usually shaded with some yellow. *V. macloskeyi* has stolons and egg-shaped to heart-shaped leaves from petioles 2-4 cm long. *V. palustris* is rhizomatous and has heart-shaped to kidney-shaped leaves from petioles up to 15 cm long. The lateral pairs of petals of *V. canadensis* and *V. macloskeyi* are usually bearded, while those of *V. palustris* are sparsely bearded; all the petals of *V. renifolia* are beardless.

Range: AK, B.C., south in the Rocky Mts. to CO, and east through most of Canada to the northeastern U.S.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist forested sites, sometimes along ditches or streams, from lowland coniferous forest to subalpine slopes. Occurs in areas with some disturbance, but may not be able to tolerate trampling. Elevations in WA: 610-1330 m (2000-4360 ft). Associated species include western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* spp. *tenuifolia*), ladyfern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), bunchberry dogwood (*Cornus unalaschensis*), violet (*Viola* spp.), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), queen's cup (*Clintonia uniflora*), twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*), and fragrant bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*).

Comments: *Viola renifolia* has disappeared from some known sites. Many sites have evidence of cattle trampling. Trampling and livestock grazing are the greatest threats to this species in WA. It is also rare in MT, WY, IA, PA, MA, and Newfoundland.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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