

TRILLIUM CERNUUM L.
Nodding Trillium

FAMILY: Liliaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 4 dm; flowers May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is easily confused with the common *T. flexipes* and the hybrids between *T. flexipes* and *T. erectum*. The most definitive characters of *T. cernuum* are the filaments which are at least 2/3 as long as the anthers, whereas the filaments of *T. flexipes* are less than half as long as the anthers.

TOTAL RANGE: Ohio plants are var. *macranthum* Wieg. which occurs from VT to Mackenzie and s. to MD, PA, e. TN, OH, IN, IL and IA. The typical variety occurs to the northeast of this range.

STATE RANGE: This species has only been collected once in Ohio, in 1879 in Lake County.

HABITAT: Bog borders and swamps.

HAZARDS: Destruction of habitat by removal of forest canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens; press the flowers open to expose the stamens for easier measurement.

COMMENTS: Many collections of *Trillium flexipes* in Ohio were mislabeled as *T. cernuum*. Positive identification is dependent upon careful measurement of the stamens and petals. The species should be sought in the swamp forests of northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae [of Ohio]: Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus OH. 464 pp.

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 3/1985 Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider