

VIOLA NEPHROPHYLLA Greene  
Northern Bog Violet

FAMILY: Violaceae

HABIT: Stemless, herbaceous perennial to 2.1 dm.; flowering mid May- early June; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is extremely similar to other types of stemless blue violets. Identification requires careful examination of technical flower and/or fruit characters. However, in its limited habitat in Ohio, *V. nephrophylla* seems to occur in pure populations. Also, the leaves are rather succulent when compared with those of other related violets.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld. to B.C., s. to ME, NY, s. Ont., MI, WI, n. IA, ND, NM, AZ, and CA.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from the Lake Erie islands of Erie and Ottawa counties. There is a 1967 record from Sandusky County.

HABITAT: In full sun in moist, often calcareous or neutral situations; Ohio populations chiefly occur in crevices in limestone exposures along the shore of the Lake Erie islands, in sites that often are sprayed by the waves.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; trampling of exposed habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good; the species seems tolerant of moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is required for identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: Although this species can easily be misidentified and/or confused with other species, it seems to be very restricted in Ohio. Extensive fieldwork in the counties along the western end of Lake Erie has not discovered more extensive populations of the species. It still should be sought throughout northwestern Ohio, however.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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