

VIOLA PRIMULIFOLIA L.
Primrose-leaved Violet

FAMILY: Violaceae

HABIT: Stemless perennial herb to 1.7 dm.; flowering early May-early June; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Viola primulifolia* is very similar and closely related to *V. lanceolata*. *V. primulifolia* can generally be distinguished by its usually ovate leaf blades. The leaf blades of *V. lanceolata* are lanceolate to linear. However, leaf shape in *V. primulifolia* exhibits considerable variation, and thus technical characters are used to distinguish these species. Fernald (1949) states that after the spring flowering season, *V. primulifolia* is easily distinguished by its habit of sending out prostrate stolons that are essentially leafless and sterile. The prostrate stolons of *V. lanceolata* have well-developed leaves and bear many cleistogamous flowers.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to e. TX, n. to ME, PA, OH, MI, IN, and OK.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Jackson and Portage counties. There is a pre-1980 record from Scioto County.

HABITAT: In moist, open situations, usually on sandy soil: meadows, edges of ponds, streams, marshes, and swamps.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; overdrying of the habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good due to its variety of habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: *V. primulifolia* may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It could easily be overlooked due to its small size and similarity to *V. lanceolata*. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout the state.

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