



Spring

The toads in the marshes are tuning their throats,
 The robins are chanting their merriest notes;
 The alders are combing their tresses of gold,
 And bees in their rambles are busy and bold.

The pussy-cat willows are downy and soft,
 The maple is swinging its censers aloft;
 The first dandelion has burst into bloom,
 And breezes are full of the richest perfume.

The pretty Mayflower has waked from her nap,
 The innocence smiles from her violet cap,
 The liverwort gazes in girlish surprise,
 With a look both of shame and of fear in her eyes.

The Saxifrage hastens Fair April to greet,
 The Blood-root looks down on her suffering feet,
 The yellow Five-fingers are gemming the green,
 And Violets lovingly blooming between.

The Columbines ringing their musical knells,
 To winter are flinging their happy farewells;
 For spring with its sunshine and beauty is here,
 And everything welcomes the opening year.

—William Whitman Bailey



Spring Fever

*It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is.
 And when you've got it, you want—
 oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want,
 but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"*

—Mark Twain

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOMING DATE	STATUS
Symplocarpus foetidus	Skunk Cabbage	3/30	C
Corylus americana	American Hazelnut	4/1-4/10	C
Acer rubrum	Red or Swamp Maple	4/10 -4/30	C
Anemone americana	Round-leaved Hepatica	4/10-4/18	SC
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	4/10-4/14	C
Panax trifolius	Dwarf Ginseng	4/10-5/30	O
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	4/14-5/22	O
Salix discolor	Pussy Willow	4/14-5/7	C
Saxifraga virginianensis	Rock Saxifrage	4/16-5/14	SC
Uvularia perfoliata	Perfoliate Bellwort	4/16-5/21	U
Uvularia sessilifolia	Bellwort	4/16-5/10	C
Viola rotundifolia	Round-leaved Yellow Violet	4/17-4/20	ST

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOMING DATE	STATUS
<i>Viola cucullata</i>	<i>Marsh Blue Violet</i>	4/19	C
<i>Epigaea repens</i>	<i>Trailing Arbutus</i>	4/21-5/9	C
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	<i>Wild Columbine</i>	4/22-6/15	O
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	<i>Coltsfoot</i>	4/22	O
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	<i>Bloodroot</i>	4/24	R
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	<i>Jack-in-the-Pulpit</i>	4/25-5/11	C
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	<i>Wild Geranium</i>	4/25-6/2	C
<i>Viola pallens</i>	<i>Northern White Violet</i>	4/25	C
<i>Viola sagittata</i> var. <i>ovata</i>	<i>Ovate-leaved Violet</i>	4/25-4/29	C
<i>Viola sorroria</i>	<i>Common Blue Violet</i>	4/25	C
<i>Viola pubescens</i>	<i>Yellow Forest Violet</i>	4/28-5/14	R
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	<i>Dog tooth violet</i>	4/29-4/30	U
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	<i>Bluets</i>	4/29-5/4	C
<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	<i>Wind Anemone</i>	4/30-5/7	C
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	<i>Yellow Ladyslipper</i>	4/30-5/25	SE
<i>Viola pedata</i>	<i>Bird's Foot Violet</i>	5/6-5/26	O
<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>	<i>Pale Corydalis</i>	5/7-7/11	SC
<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	<i>Hairy Solomon's Seal</i>	5/7	C
<i>Trillium cernuum</i>	<i>Nodding Trillium</i>	5/7-5/21	O
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	<i>White Baneberry</i>	5/8-5/25	O
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	<i>Wild Lupine</i>	5/9	SC
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	<i>Canada Mayflower</i>	5/10	C
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	<i>False Solomon's Seal</i>	5/10	C
<i>Viola labradorica</i>	<i>American Dog Violet</i>	5/10	C
<i>Conopholis americana</i>	<i>Squawroot</i>	5/11-6/10	SC
<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>	<i>Aniseroot</i>	5/14	ST
<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>	<i>Early Azalea</i>	5/15-5/26	O
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	<i>Lesser Stitchwort</i>	5/15	C
<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	<i>Common Cinquefoil</i>	5/17-5/27	C
<i>Polygala paucifolia</i>	<i>Fringed Polygala</i>	5/21-5/30	U
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	<i>Pink Ladyslipper</i>	5/21-5/30	O

Most of these blooming dates are based on my personal records of actual plant sightings. Where there is only a single date and not a spread, I would look for the plant a week prior to the date to a week after the date. —kbarnton

For Plants not on the RI Rare Plant List

(from *Check List of the Plants of Rhode Island* by Gilbert G. George, 1997)

C — Common	U — Uncommon
A — Abundant	O — Occasional
F — Frequent	R — Rare

RI State Status

from *RARE NATIVE PLANTS OF RHODE ISLAND* – September, 2007
Prepared by Richard W. Enser, Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program

(SE) State Endangered-

Native taxa in imminent danger of extirpation from Rhode Island. These taxa may meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. A taxon formerly considered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for listing as Federally endangered or threatened. These species were identified as C2 (Category 2) taxa for which information indicated that proposing to list under the Federal Endangered Species Act was potentially appropriate, but for which sufficient data on biological vulnerability and threat were not currently available to support proposed rules. The US Fish & Wildlife Service is currently not designating Category 2 species.
2. A taxon with 1 or 2 known or estimated total populations in the state.
3. A taxon apparently globally rare or threatened, estimated to occur at approximately 100 or fewer sites range-wide.

Plants listed as State Endangered are protected under the provisions of the Rhode Island State Endangered Species Act, Title 20 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island. This law states, in part (20-37-3):

“No person shall buy, sell, offer for sale, store, transport, import, export, or otherwise traffic in any animal or plant or any part of any animal or plant whether living or dead, processed, manufactured, preserved or raw (if such animal or plant has been declared to be an endangered species by either the United States secretaries of the Interior or Commerce or the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.”) State Threatened- Native taxa which are likely to become State Endangered in the future if current trends in habitat loss or other detrimental factors remain unchanged. In general, these taxa have 3-5 known or estimated populations and are especially vulnerable to habitat loss.

(ST) State Threatened-

Native taxa which are likely to become State Endangered in the future if current trends in habitat loss or other detrimental factors remain unchanged. In general, these taxa have 3-5 known or estimated populations and are especially vulnerable to habitat loss.

(SC) Species of Concern-

Native taxa not considered to be State Endangered or Threatened at the present time, but are listed due to the various factors of rarity and/or vulnerability.

(SH) State Historical-

Native taxa which have been documented for Rhode Island during the last 150 years but for which there are no extant populations. When known, the year of last documented occurrence is included.