



BUTTERCUP FAMILY

RANUNCULACEAE

**Hepatica.
Liverwort
Liver-leaf**

Anemone acutiloba

Found in April and May, on hillsides, along the edge of woods, and in rocky ground

The leaf-stems and flower-stems rise from the ground to the height of 4 or 6 inches

The leaf is heart-shaped, and 3-lobed, of a tough, strong fibre that often survives the winter. Its color is dark green above and dull violet beneath.



The beautiful flower is composed of 6 to 9 petal-like calyx-parts, of an oval shape, and thin texture, whose color varies from light to dark violet, and from lavender-tinted white to a very pink-lavender, or lilac ; the stamens are many, and thread-like, and of a pale straw color. Close beneath the flower are 3 reddish-brown, downy little leaves, bearing the semblance of a calyx. The flower is set on a slender, very downy stem, which springs from amidst the leaves.



The harmony of color in this plant as seen in the flower and leaf is striking, a preponderance of violet showing throughout. It is very downy, the young leaves being covered with long silky hairs. The numerous half-opened flowers and buds are slightly nodding, but become more erect when fully spread in the sunlight. The Hepatica is often frequented by small lavender butterflies, in size and color resembling the blossoms, when they rise and flutter in the soft spring ail', it is as though the flowers themselves are taking flight.

Photo credits: kbarton



HEPATICA: *Anemone acutiloba*