

NARROW-LEAVED TRILLIUM

Trillium lancifolium Raf.

Synonyms: *Trillium lanceolatum* (S. Wats.)

Boykin ex Small

Family: Melanthiaceae (bunchflower)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S2

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Field Description: Perennial **herb** with a single, succulent, purple-tinged **stem**, 10 - 30 cm tall, topped by 3 drooping, mottled, lance-shaped **leaves**, 13 - 20 mm long, and a single, unstalked **flower**. **Sepals** 3, horizontal or drooping. **Petals** 3, 2.5 - 3.8 cm long and 4 times as long as wide; yellow-green, bronze, or maroon; erect, slightly twisted. **Stamens** 6, with **filaments** and **anthers** of almost equal length, strongly curving over the green to maroon, deeply 6-angled ovary. **Anther sacs** open inward toward the ovary.

Similar Species: The three other Florida trilliums have larger flowers, stamens with long anthers and short filaments, and broadly oval leaves. Long-leaved wake-robin (*Trillium underwoodii*) stems are short, so that leaves nearly brush the ground. Chattahoochee wake-robin (*Trillium decipiens*) has a 6-angled ovary but oval petals; its leaves are nearly twice as long as the stem. Spotted wake-robin (*Trillium maculatum*) has a 3-angled ovary and petals strongly narrowed to claws at the base.

narrow-leaved trillium

Trillium lancifolium

Related Rare Species: Narrow-leaved trillium is the only rare trillium species in FL.

Habitat: Slope forests, rich upland hardwood forests, often over limestone.

Best Survey Season: Spring; March before canopy trees leaf out.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, SC, GA, AL, TN; rare throughout its range.

Conservation Status: Fewer than a dozen sites are known in FL; only five populations are protected on parks and preserves.

Protection and Management: Logging of slope and hardwood forests is fatal to this species; the remaining intact hardwood forests of north Florida should be protected. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Duncan and Foote 1975, Freeman 1975, Patrick 1986, Radford et al. 1968, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

