

# Bog white violet

(*Viola lanceolata*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Also known as Lanceleaf violet, Bog white violet is a diminutive perennial wildflower that occurs naturally in bogs and along the edges of ponds, marshes and other wetlands. It blooms in early winter through summer, but may bloom year-round. Its sweetly scented flowers attract bees and butterflies, while its seeds are enjoyed by various birds and small mammals.



Photo by Emily Bell

Bog white violet's solitary flowers are borne on delicate green to reddish-purple pedicels and are often nodding. Each bloom is five-petaled and bright white with obvious purple, vein-like streaks on the lowermost petal. These "veins" act as nectar guides for pollinators. Lower lateral petals may or may not have light purple streaking. Sepals are light green. Leaves are relatively long (up to 6") and linear to lanceolate (hence the scientific epithet), resembling blades of grass. Fruits are green, elliptical capsules that bear many tiny brown seeds. The plant spreads by underground rhizomes.

**Family:** Violaceae (Violet family)

**Native range:** Nearly throughout

*To see where natural populations of Bog white violet have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).*

**Lifespan:** Perennial

**Soil:** Moist to wet, acidic soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to full shade

**Growth habit:** 2–6" tall

**Propagation:** Seed, division

**Florida regions of landscape suitability:** North, Central, South

**Garden tips:** Bog white violets require consistently moist to wet soils. They are best suited to wet wildflower gardens and natural landscapes.

Bog white violets are occasionally available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a nursery in your area.

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