

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

*Look for it now in southwest Ohio!*

**Spring 2022**



*Common Blue Violet. Photos by Dave Woehr.*

## **Common Blue Violet** (*Viola sororia sororia*)

By Dave Woehr, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

The Common Blue Violet is aptly named. It is common, and it comes in a range of blue shades from pale to deep blue to purple. It is a small and unassuming plant usually seen as a small mound not exceeding four-inches in height and 6-inches in diameter. Three-inch leaves are a lush green, ovate or heart-shaped with toothed edges. The flowers stand slightly taller than the leaf mound, are about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " across, and consist of five rounded petals. There are two upper petals, two lateral petals with white hairs (or beards) near the throat of the flower, and a lower petal that functions as a landing pad for visiting insects. Once the flowers appear in April, they may continue to bloom until late spring or early summer. The plant reproduces by seed and by root stolons. It is found in a variety of settings including moist, rich woodlands, parks, and urban lawns. Although shade-loving, it does tolerate full sun where soil chemistry and moisture levels are to its liking. The Blue Violet may be found in proximity with other violet species that are mainly yellow or white.

[Hisey Park](#), located outside Waynesville at 5443 Middletown Rd., Corwin, OH 45068, is a wildflower hot spot! To learn more about the spring ephemerals you may see, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's [Spring Wildflowers of Ohio Field Guide](#) and check out their [weekly report](#) to see what is currently in bloom.