

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Look for it now in southwest Ohio!

Spring 2022



*Sessile Trillium Photos by Dave Woehr.*

## Sessile Trillium (*Trillium sessile*)

By Dave Woehr, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

The Sessile Trillium is a common wildflower found in our area, blooming for about a month in the spring woodlands as the soil first begins to warm. The “tri” in the name “trillium” refers to the geometry of the plant, which features three leaves, three sepals, and three petals. The plant is often referred to by another common name, Toad-shade.

Leaves are fairly large, 2-4 inches, ovate, and mottled green. lying parallel to the ground. The plant can attain a height of one foot, but is often found somewhat shorter. The flower is unique because its three maroon petals never completely open; rather they point skyward from the middle of the three-leaf whorl looking somewhat like an inch-tall candle flame. The plant develops slowly from seed, taking several years to fully develop before blooming. The fact that it develops slowly and is on the menu for white-tailed deer makes it a plant much worthy of our admiration and protection. It is found in wooded tracts providing moist, rich, loamy soil along with dappled sunlight.

[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.