

California Phenology Project:
species profile for
Pacific Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum*)

CPP site(s) where this species is monitored: Redwood National Park



Photo credit: David Hofmann (Flickr)

What does this species look like?

Pacific trillium is an erect, perennial, herbaceous plant that reaches 10 and 50 cm in height. The dark green leaves appear in whorled triads above a bare stem. The showy, white flowers change to pink or maroon with age. Flowers are bisexual; they have both male and female parts. They occur as single flowers with three petals, emerging above a whorl of three leaves.

When monitoring this species, use the USA-NPN *forbs* datasheet.

Species facts!

- The CPP four letter code for this species is **TROV**.
- A very slow-developing long-lived plant; can take up to 7 years to flower.
- Pollinated primarily by beetles, moths, and bumblebees.
- Can spread clonally through underground rhizomes.
- Seeds are dispersed by ants and wasps.
- The roots have been used for medicinal purposes.



Photo credit: Steven Krause



Photo credit: OutdoorPDK (Flickr)

Where is this species found?

- Grows in partially shaded to shaded sites, in moist to wet sites, along stream banks, and areas that are bog-like in the Spring.
- Found in Redwood and mixed-evergreen forest on moist wooded slopes.
- Occurs from 10 to 2000 meters in elevation.

For more information about phenology and the California Phenology Project (CPP), please visit the CPP website (www.usanpn.org/cpp) and the USA-NPN website (www.usanpn.org)

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USA **nph** 
National Phenology Network

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Initial growth

Steven Krause



Leaves

Leaves occur in whorls of three. They have no stalks (petioles) at their bases.

Brian Haggerty



Flowers or flower buds

Only one flower will be present on a single plant at any given time!

Note: You will only monitor the flower abundance if you are monitoring this species as a patch.

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Open flower

Each flower has both male and female parts.

Note: flower phenophases are nested; if you record **Y** for "open flowers," you should also record **Y** for "flowers or flower buds"

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Fruits

The fruit is a fleshy capsule and changes from green to yellow or yellow-green, and falls from the plant when ripe, releasing its seeds.

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Ripe fruits

The fruit is considered ripe when it separates and readily falls from the plant. When touched.

Note: fruit phenophases are nested; if you record **Y** for "ripe fruits," you should also record **Y** to "fruits"

Steven Krause

Phenophases not pictured: **Recent fruit or seed drop**