

# Rue Anemone

# *Anemonella thalictroides*

**Plant Type:** Native Perennial Wildflower

**Sun Exposure:** Shade

**Season of Interest:** Spring

**Bloom Time:** Spring

**Bloom Color:** White/Pink/Lavender

**Height:** 4 to 8 in.

**Spread:** 6 to 0 in.

**Spacing:** 8 in.

**Water Needs:** Average

**Maintenance:** Very Little

**Soil Type:** High in organic matter

**Soil pH:** Acidic, Neutral

**Soil Drainage:** Well drained

**Pests:** Slugs (Deer resistant)

**Diseases:** None

**Wildlife:** Bees, Butterflies



**Description:** A delicate spring-blooming perennial native to eastern North America, rue anemone is well-suited to wildflower or woodland gardens. Part of the buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae*), it grows in clusters and is spread via its thin tuberous root system. From a low clump of small basal leaves, one to six flower stalks extends up in spring, each with a single small white flower that is sometimes tinged with pink or lavender. After flowering, this ephemeral plant goes dormant and dies back as the heat of the summer arrives. It is a slow-growing plant but will gradually spread to fill available space, creating a long-lived colony. The Rue Anemone thrives in full shade making it perfect for those hard-to-fill spots in your garden where other plants may struggle. Its adaptability extends to various soil conditions as well, from moist to well-drained, making it a versatile choice for different garden settings. For more information see: [plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/anemonella-thalictroides](http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/anemonella-thalictroides).



**Care and Growing Tips:** Rue anemone prefers loose, humus-rich loamy, or sandy soils, but it can cope with a variety of soil types. It does need to be well-drained. Because rue anemones can cope without too much moisture, this species won't need a lot of additional watering, especially if the area has a covering of mulch. Rue anemone is fairly drought tolerant but keeping them moderately moist will ensure the longest bloom period in spring. Its drought tolerance is a benefit if the rue anemone is planted under large, well-established trees, which absorb a lot of the available moisture into their sprawling root systems.

Rue anemones, despite their delicate-looking appearance, are surprisingly hardy and needs no winter protection against freezing. Late fall is a good time to apply a layer of compost over the plants to provide nutrients for the following spring. Rue anemone generally produces one to six flower stalks per plant, each stalk with one flower, during the spring. As a spring ephemeral, this plant dies back as spring gives way to summer, leaving empty spots in the woodland garden. This is best remedied by planting rue anemone among other shade-loving perennials that fill out later in the season. such as spiderwort, ostrich fern, or Jacob's ladder.