

Yellow Trout Lily

Erythronium americanum

Plant Type: Native Perennial Wildflower

Sun Exposure: Part Sun, Shade

Season of Interest: Spring

Bloom Time: Early Spring

Bloom Color: Yellow

Height: 4 to 6 in.

Spread: 4 to 6 in.

Spacing: 6 in.

Water Needs: Above average

Maintenance: Very Little

Soil Type: High in organic matter

Soil pH: Acidic (pH < 6.0)

Soil Drainage: Well Drained

Pests: None

Diseases: None

Wildlife: Bees

Description: *Erythronium americanum*, commonly known as the Yellow Trout Lily, Adder's Tongue, or Dogtooth Violet, is a perennial plant native to eastern North America. It is part of the Liliaceae family and is known for its distinctive yellow flowers and mottled leaves that resemble the markings of a trout. This plant thrives in temperate climates and typically grows in deciduous forests and woodlands. It is a spring ephemeral, which is a plant that blooms in the early spring then goes dormant. It can take a few seasons before this bulb produces flowers, but once it blooms, it can form colonies. Several of the common names for this plant refer to the flower or leaf appearance at different phases of its growth cycle. As one example, the Trout lily name refers to its leaf mottling resembling a trout moving through water and the general shape of the petals. Adder's Tongue refers to shape of the flower's stamen. Other common names, Dogtooth Violet refer to its tooth-like shaped bulb. For more information see: plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/erythronium-americanum



Care Tips: Yellow Trout Lily prefers moderate temperatures and indirect bright light. It thrives in environments with high humidity and requires soil that stays moist during the spring. It prefers loamy soil that is well-draining but retains moisture. Adding organic matter to the soil can help improve its nutrient content and drainage. While the trout lily does not typically require additional fertilization; if the soil is particularly poor, a balanced, slow-release fertilizer can be applied sparingly in early spring.