

Liverleaf Buttercup *Hepatica acutiloba*

Plant Type: Native perennial
Sun Exposure: Part Sun, Shade
Bloom Time: Early spring
Bloom Color: Blue, violet, pink, white
Height: 8 in.
Spread: 8 in.
Spacing: 10 in.
Water Needs: Average
Maintenance: Very little
Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sandy
Soil pH: Acidic, Neutral (pH 6 - 8)
Soil Drainage: Well drained
Pests: Slugs and snails (Deer resistant)
Diseases: None
Wildlife: Bees



Description: Liverleaf is an early-blooming, low-maintenance perennial wildflower from the buttercup family. Its small delicate flowers are most commonly a bright blue or lavender, but they also bloom in white or pink shades depending on soil pH.

These delicately scented, low-growing flowers thrive in damp, lush forest floors where they form clumps. Once established, they're hardy and will provide a lovely splash of spring color for many years. The leaves are present on the plant throughout the year and provide bronze shades in the garden during the winter.

Liverleaf is a good option for growing around the base of trees, in rock garden crevices, and in a forested or damp sections of a garden, where other plants may struggle. The flowers tend to appear during February and March. Although they cope well in shady conditions, the flowers open to their fullest when they a few hours of sunlight. For more information see: plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/hepatica-acutiloba

Care and Growing Tips: Liverleaf is an easy-to-grow, self-propagating flower. It can thrive in a variety of different light and soil conditions and needs little maintenance or attention. Given that this plant is commonly found in a woodland setting, it prefers growing in shade and partial shade.

In the spring, the flowers will look their most impressive if they receive some direct sunlight. However, during the summer, too much sunlight is harmful. Liverleaf loves rich, moist soil conditions, but it can adapt to a variety of soil types. Although it has a preference for well-drained soils, this plant tolerates wet conditions. This plant does best in consistently moist soils but tolerates dry conditions once established. Mulching can help to retain this moisture.

Because Liverleaf does best in rich, organic soil, it may benefit from an annual application of composted manure. Mulching with leaf litter in winter is also beneficial.

