

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, the delicate leaves remain through the end of summer and appear to shimmer in the breeze. 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.



Care and Growing Tips: Rue anemone is native to woodland areas so it shouldn't be a surprise that it prefers a shady spot. This makes the species a great choice for planting under deciduous tree canopies. In the spring, they'll receive the dappled light they prefer to grow in. 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. As native wildflower, they require no supplemental feeding. At most, a layer of compost applied as a mulch over the root zone in fall is sufficient. This plant 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.