



***Viola pedatifida* – Prairie Violet**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Violet

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Viola pedatifida* – referring to the deeply divided leaves

FLOWER: Five rich violet colored petals, three of which are bearded and some are lined with white. The stamens do not protrude.

BLOOMING PERIOD: late April to early June

SIZE: 4 – 6 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Prairie violets are some of the earliest spring flowers. This species is indicative of good quality, undisturbed prairie. When the seeds ripen, the pod explodes sending seeds in several directions.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Most commonly found in mesic (rich) prairies. Will persist better on heavier soils than birdfoot violets. Tolerant of light shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Southern Ontario west to Alberta, south to northern Ohio, west to the Plains states. It is found in southern and western Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The deeply divided leaves are interesting. The flowers are more elongated than the flattened birdfoot violet flowers.

SUGGESTED CARE: Provide adequate moisture until new plantings become established during the first growing season. Do not plant in heavy shade where common violets tend to grow.

COMPANION PLANTS: Big bluestem, creamy baptisia, coreopsis, shooting star, prairie phlox, rosinweed, prairie dock, blue-eyed grass, stiff goldenrod, needle grass and spiderwort