

## Fringed Phacelia (*Phacelia fimbriata*)

### Identification:

In April and May, the forest floor in some places in the Appalachians looks snow covered, with this stunning white ephemeral. Look at one of the half-inch blossoms closely, and you will really be convinced of its beauty. The 5 rounded petals are deeply fringed and arranged in a cup shape. Anthers are a dark orange and contrast nicely against the white petals. As the blossoms age, the petals fade to violet.

Fringed Phacelia's leaves are about 2 inches long, arranged alternately along the stem and have 5 to 9 lobes pointing toward the tip. This plant stands no more than 6 inches tall, but numerous plants can cover an area to a stunning effect in the spring.



### Natural History:



Unlike many ephemerals, this is not a perennial. It's a winter annual. After flowering, the whole plant dies off, including roots, leaving only seeds to make a showing the next spring.

### Significance:

This plant is found only in southern Appalachians in Tennessee, North Carolina and in a couple isolated places in Virginia, Alabama and Georgia.