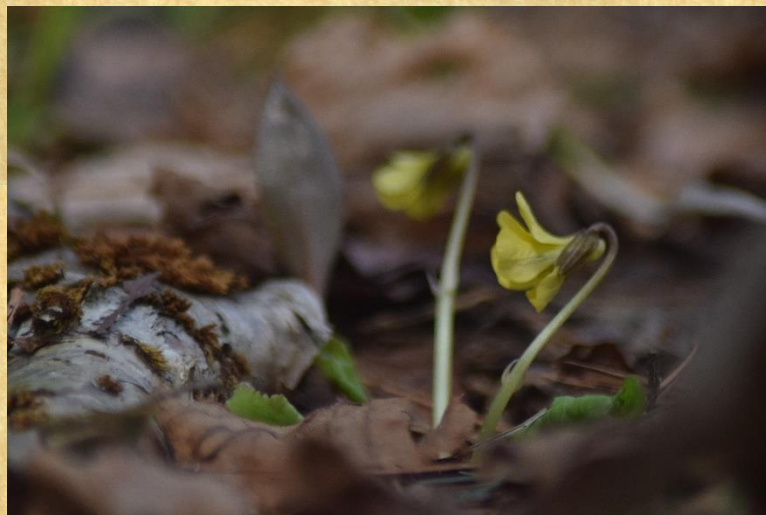


Viola rotundifolia Round-leaved Yellow Violet



Identification

This yellow violet is one of the earliest blooming violets. You may notice the yellow blossoms in March or April even before the glossy, heart-shaped leaves appear. A stemless violet, round-leaved yellow violet has flowers and leaves that appear on separate stalks. The small yellow flowers are only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across. The lower three



petals have brown veins that act as landing guides, highlighting the way to nectar for flying pollinators. After the early yellow flowers disappear, rounded leaves continue to grow, becoming more and more round, sometimes reaching five inches across and giving the plant its species name. Do they look rotund?

Natural History

Round-leaved yellow violet is the only yellow, stemless violet. It is also a host plant for the larvae of the Great Spangled Fritillary, a tan and orange butterfly with black spots across its wings. The Great Spangled Fritillary larvae feed exclusively on violet leaves.



Conservation

Round-leaved yellow violet has a wide range that extends from Georgia into Canada but stretches westward only as far as Tennessee's western border. It is considered to be generally secure although it is listed as a species of special concern in Rhode Island.