




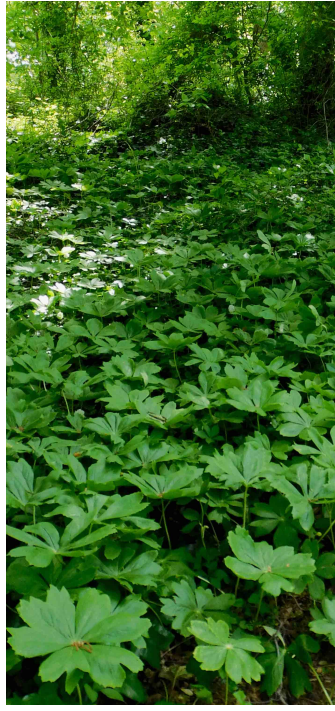

Podophyllum peltatum

Mayapple

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



This **native** ground cover spreads to carpet the floor of mixed deciduous forests from eastern Canada to Florida and is common throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Like its Latin **epithet**, its single, vegetative leaves are peltate (umbrella-like). In mid-spring, paired leaves may hide showy but sparse white flowers. Fully ripened fruits,* mayapples, are used for preserves and jellies.

Ground Cover	Fertile/Vegetative Leaves,** Flower, Fruit, Colony
Height: 1–2 feet	 
Spread: ½–1 foot	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	 
Spring ephemeral , herbaceous perennial	
1–3 alternate or nearly opposite , lobed or entire, palmately-veined leaves on flowering shoots; one peltate , ≤12” diameter leaf on nonflowering shoots	
Single, nodding, waxy, 6–9-petaled white flower emerges from leaf axil of 2-leaved ramets April–May	
Fleshy lemon-shaped berry turns golden when ripe	
Colonizes by rhizomes to form dense mats, often to the exclusion of other spring-flowering plants	
Attributes	
Tolerates dry soil and drought; no serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage	
Goes dormant in summer, so not a good border plant	
Leaves, roots, and unripe fruit are poisonous but fully ripe fruit is edible* and used for preserves	
Attracts long-tongued bees; fruits attract box turtles	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained soil	<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy
Light Requirements: Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Hosta</i> spp.
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle
Do not mix with other plants that compete	
Use in woodland settings under deciduous hardwoods, but not conifers	* Consult expert guides before eating. Fruit should be fully ripe—yellow/golden, soft, wrinkly, and odorous and eaten sparingly. Do not eat the seeds or skin.
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3-8	**Unfurling, paired fertile leaves (left) with emerging flower; peltate, single vegetative leaves (right)

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, U.S. Nat'l Arboretum & private garden, Arlington and by Christa Watters (right column), Mount Vernon Trail, Alexandria



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