



# BWSR Featured Plant

Name: Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)

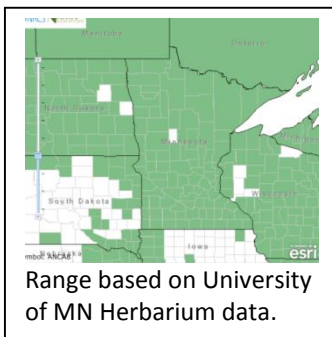


Single flower extending from a whorl of leaf-like bracts

## Identification

The species typically grows in dense clumps with deeply divided basal leaves that have large teeth and grow about six-inches tall. The leaves are dark green, have recessed veins and fine hairs. The flower stems are finely-hairy and have whorled, three to five parted leaf-like bracts. The flowers have five bright white petal-like sepals that extend above the foliage and bloom from mid-May to mid-June. The flowers also have numerous golden colored stamens around a green center.

## Range



The aggressive growth form of the species enables it to be widespread across Minnesota. It prefers calcareous soils with loam, sand or gravel, and is found in a wide range of plant communities including wet meadows, shrub swamps, mesic prairies, floodplain forests, streambanks and lakeshores. It is also found in some disturbed landscapes such as roadsides, agricultural ditches, and stormwater detention areas. It is mainly found in the eastern half of the United States and Canada.

## Uses

Native American tribes used the species for the treatment of wounds and sores, as well as an eyewash. The roots contain anemonin that is believed to act as an antiseptic. The species is toxic if eaten in large quantities like other species in the Buttercup family. A variety of bee, beetle and fly species including Mining bees,

Statewide Wetland Indicator Status:

- FACW



Finely divided basal leaf with coarse teeth.



Dense growth form of Canada anemone.

Primary Uses:

- Pollinator Habitat
- Stormwater Treatment

Yellow-faced bees, Sweat bees, Carpenter bees, Long-horned beetles, and Syrphid flies use the species as a source of pollen. Canada anemone doesn't provide nectar for pollinators. Some insects feed on the roots of the plant but due to its toxicity, deer, rabbits, and other mammals avoid the species. The dense colonies formed by spreading rhizomes can filter stormwater, stabilize slopes and act as a groundcover for naturalized plantings.

## Planting Recommendations

Dividing plants/rhizomes in late fall or early spring is an effective way to propagate plants. Each segment of rhizome should be several inches long and planted one-half to one inch deep. Seeds are easy to collect in early fall, found in star-shaped clusters that extend above the leaves and seeds and separate easily from the stem when ripe. The seeds have unique needs for stratification, requiring a cold/moist period, followed by a warm/moist period, and then another cold/moist treatment. These conditions can be created indoors with refrigeration and heat (around 80 degrees). It is most common to stratify seed indoors when they will be planted in containers or flats and can be cared for so the seed does not dry out. Seeds can also be seeded in late fall into project sites but will likely take a winter, a summer and another winter to break dormancy. Seeds should be sown about 1/8 inch under the soil.

### Planting Methods

- Seed
- Containerized plants
- Transplanting

## Similar Species



Rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*) has a whorl of leaves with three teeth or shallow lobes, growing just below 2-3 flowers with green centers and 5-10 petal-like sepals.



Thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*) has basal leaves with three lobes and coarse teeth. It has five white, petal-like sepals and a thimble shaped center. Image Katy Chayka, Minnesota Wildflowers



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## References

Minnesota Wildflowers <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/canada-anemone>

Illinois Wildflowers: [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/mdw\\_anemone.html](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/mdw_anemone.html)