



**BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY**

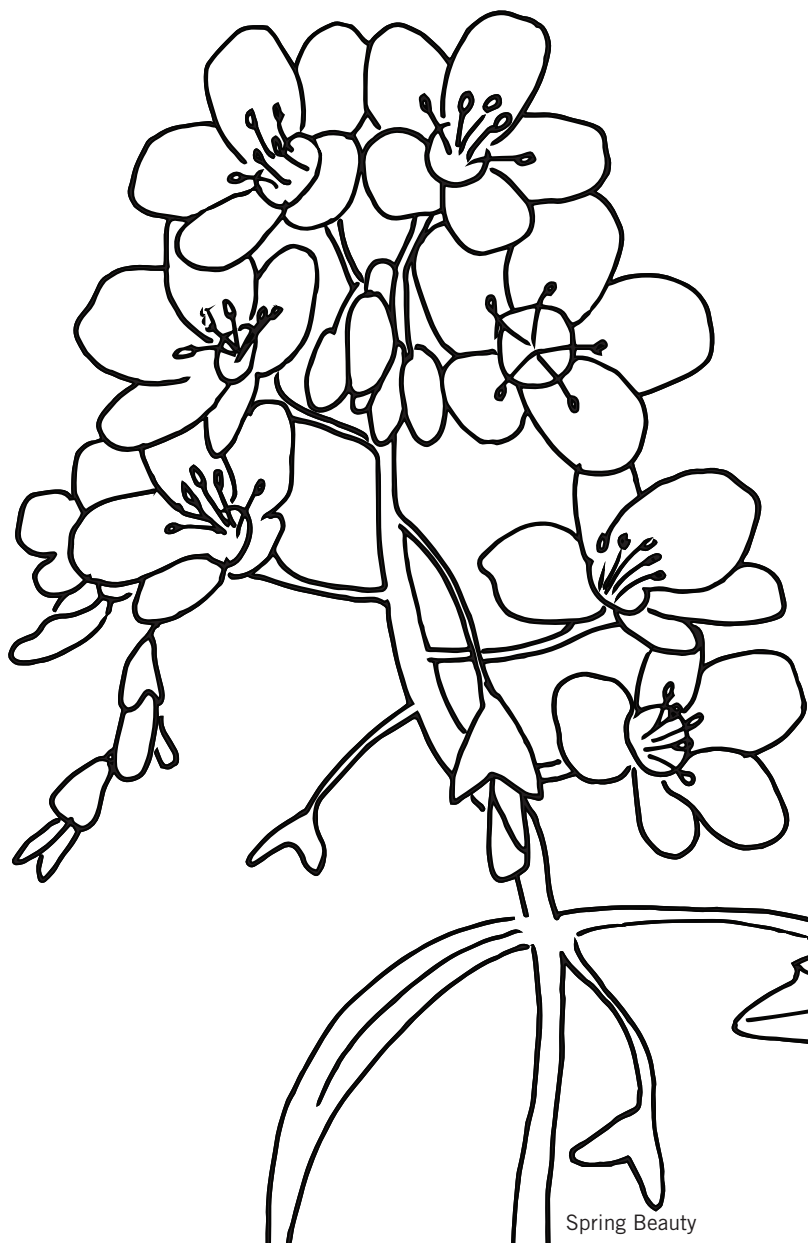
Native Spring Wildflowers Coloring Sheets



Fringed Polygala

Wild Blue Phlox

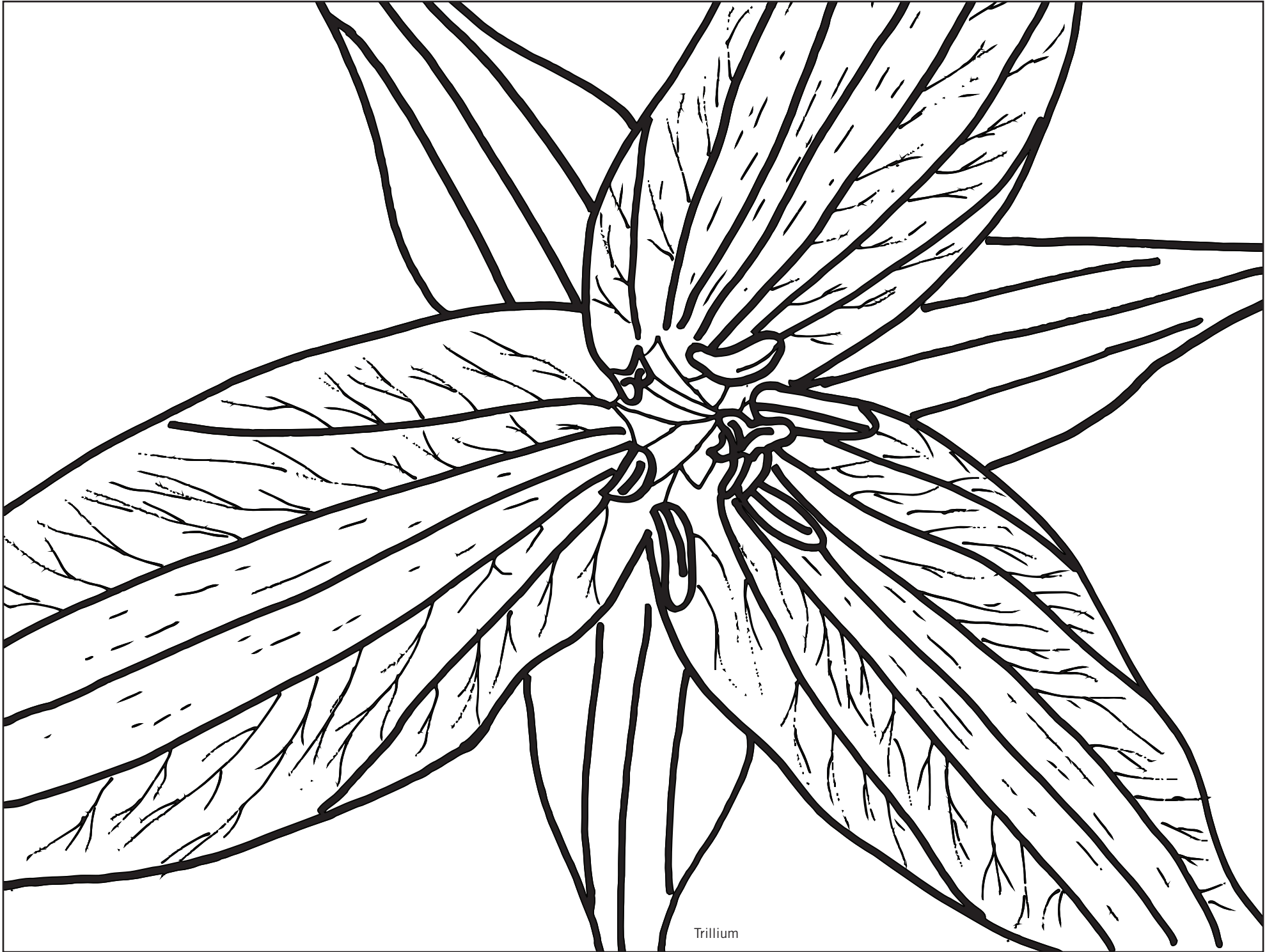
Trout Lily



Spring Beauty



Wild Geranium



Trillium



Fringed Polygala or Gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*)

Often mistaken for an orchid, you have to get low to really admire this unique native plant. Known as fringed polygala or gaywings, this plant grows less than five inches tall and has tough, simple leaves that resemble those of wintergreen clustered at the top. The flower petals may be shades of magenta (pinky-purple) and, rarely, all white. A couple petals fuse to form a tubular structure with a fringe on the end that helps in pollination. It tends to grow in rich, moist soil in mowed areas near the woods' edge in May and June.



Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

Clusters of slightly fragrant, purple/blue flowers top this 12-18" native, spring ephemeral wildflower that prefers shadier locations and rich soils. Five petals, which have a little notch in the end, form a flat flower with a tubular base that attracts hummingbirds. Its stem is a little hairy and sticky! Don't confuse it with Dame's Rocket, a non-native plant that also flowers in shades of purple, but only has four petals, not five.



Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

This native wildflower is named trout lily because its green leaves are mottled with brown markings, like the back of a brook trout. It's a short plant with a nodding yellow flower and has petals that curl backwards when fully opened, exposing its six stamens and yellow anthers. Rarer are white trout lilies (*Erythronium albidum*). It can take more than five years for a trout lily to bloom when grown from seed, and it slowly spreads by runners. It likes rich, moist woods and blossoms March through June. It forms colonies that may carpet the forest floor.



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

A sure sign of spring, this beauty is an early bloomer, making it an important plant for pollinators. Found in woodlands, fields, and even lawns, spring beauty may form large colonies, adding a splash of pale pink to the forest floor. It is a low-growing plant with narrow leaves. Its flower has five pale pink to white petals that are, sometimes very vividly, striped with pink lines that act as runway lights directing pollinators to their nectar. Each of the five stamens are topped by pink anthers. The blossoms open on sunny days and close during cloudy weather and at night.



Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Growing in rich forests and meadows, wild geranium is 1-2 feet tall and has large deeply lobed, toothed leaves. The leaves, stem and buds are hairy. Some hairs protect the nectar from rain or dew. Wild geranium's blossom has five light purple petals that fade to white towards the center of the flower. It is considered common and blooms April – June. It is sometimes called Crane's bill as its seed-bearing structure looks a bit like a crane's bill and, when mature, splits open and propels seeds up to 30 feet away!



Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Trillium is a beautiful native wildflower in Pennsylvania that may bloom in shades of white, yellow and red, depending on the species. Belonging to the Lily Family, it grows in deep, moist, well-drained soils in partial shade—most likely to be found in the woods. Flowering April through June, trillium has one "stem" from which three "leaves" grow. The "stem" is actually an extension of the rhizome, and the "leaves" are known as "bracts." Three petals and three sepals, pictured here, top the plant.