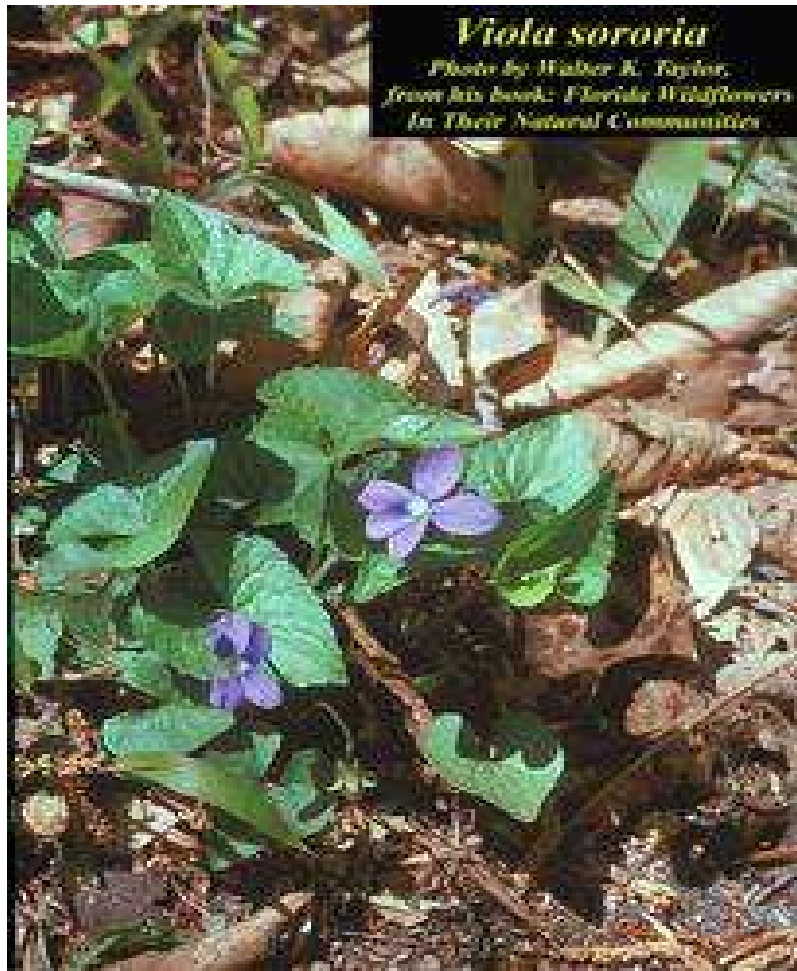


COMMON BLUE VIOLET

Viola sororia

The glossy, heart-shaped leaves of this 6-10 in. violet are topped by purple flowers with conspicuous white throats in early spring; the three lower petals are somewhat hairy. The erect flower stem droops slightly, as if bending its head toward the ground. Perhaps that is why the flower is associated with modesty and decency. Violet leaves are high in vitamins A and C and can be used in salads or cooked as greens. The flowers can be made into candies and jellies.



EARLY BLUE VIOLET

Viola palmata

Genetically similar to *V. sororia*, this violet bears birds-foot or palmate leaves and blooms slightly earlier in the spring.

