



SPECIAL PLANTS OF
NEW JERSEY

factsheet

Hammond's Yellow Spring Beauty



NJ Natural Heritage
Program Data: August
2008

Current and Historically
Documented Records

Scientific Name: *Claytonia virginica* var. *hammondiae*

State-listed: Endangered

Federally-listed: None

State Conservation Rank: S1.1

Global Conservation Rank: G5T1

Description/Identification Tips: Delicate herbaceous perennial in the purslane family (Portulacaceae). Similar to the typical species (*Claytonia virginica* var. *virginica*), but with yellow flowers. Leaves long and slender, mostly at least 8 times as long as wide and long-tapering to the base. Flowers 7-14 mm in diameter, 5 yellow petals.

Range: Sussex County, N.J.

Best Time to See: Blooms early spring, lasting through much of the summer.

Habitat: Wet, shady woods; rare inland acidic seeps.

Management: Protection from habitat alterations from human disturbance, erosion, herbivory, and invasive species.

Needs: Population monitoring and surveys for unknown populations.

Comments: The inland acidic seep community is known from a single location in the Kittatiny Mountains. There is a slight potential that this type of community may also occur in PA, NY, or MD.

References: Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Breden et al. 2001; NatureServe 2010; USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database 2011.

— Ecological Interactions —

* While Hammond's Yellow Spring Beauty persists longer into the summer, the typical *Claytonia virginica* is known as a "spring ephemeral" due to its transitory period of growth and reproduction. Spring ephemerals live above-ground for only a short time in the early spring and reproduce quickly before the surrounding forest trees develop their leaves. This strategy allows the plant to take advantage of the more abundant sunlight reaching the forest floor before being shaded out by the trees.