

How did the White Turtlehead plant get its name?

Fun Facts



White turtlehead has two-lipped white flowers that can be tinged at the tip with pink. The upper lip arches over the lower lip and resembles a turtle's head.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Description and Habitat

White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) blooms in late summer or early fall. It grows in wet or moist habitats such as wet meadows, stream banks, and floodplain forests. Turtlehead is the host plant for the Common Buckeye and Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies whose caterpillars eat the leaves to complete their life cycle.

The flowers attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. However, they are primarily pollinated by bumblebees because these large bees can pry open the flower and crawl inside to get the pollen.



James Henderson, Golden Delight Honey, Bugwood.org



Mary Voorhees, Virginia Master Naturalist

The plants grow in clumps and can form masses.

Their seedpods that form provide winter interest.

For additional information about this plant, click on these links.

[Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#)

[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)

[North Carolina State Extension](#)

[Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia Tried and True Natives](#)