



Vanilla Leaf

Achlys triphylla

Characteristics

Spreading ground cover perennial grows up to one foot high. Large leaves, divided into three leaflets with scalloped edges. Grows in large underground root networks that result in carpets that dominate the understory of the forest. Best known for the vanilla smell of its dried leaves during the winter.

Flowers/Fruit

White bottlebrush-like flower appear in spring. Flowers feature white stamens that form a showy spike positioned about the center point of the leaves. Flower spikes range from 1-3 inches in length.

Habitat Value

Provides cover for birds and small mammals. Rufous Hummingbirds feed on flower nectar.

Home Garden Applications

Attractive ground cover that fills in under trees and shrubs, where it can create dense cover that discourages weeds. Its distinctive fan-shaped foliage and the dainty, upright flowers produce a delightful effect in shady garden areas.