

Central Canada Botanical Field Guide

Part 1: The Observation Kit (What to Pack)

- **Macro Lens or Smartphone:** For close-up photos (remember, no picking!).
- **Waterproof Boots:** Essential for spotting the Blue Flag Iris in marshes.
- **GPS/Offline Maps:** To log coordinates without getting lost.
- **Soft Brush:** To clean your boots *before* and *after* the hike (prevents spreading Garlic Mustard seeds).

Part 2: Identification Criteria

- **White Trillium (Woodlands):**
 - Three-way symmetry (3 leaves, 3 petals, 3 sepals).
 - Petal color (White = fresh; Pink = aging/pollinated).
 - Location: Rich, loamy soil under deciduous canopy.
- **Blue Flag Iris (Wetlands):**
 - Sword-like leaves in a flat fan shape.
 - Violet-blue petals with a yellow/white "signal" at the base.
 - Location: Shorelines, marshes, or saturated ditches.

Part 3: The "Guardian" Ethics Code

- **The 2-Meter Rule:** I will stay on the path to avoid crushing trillium rhizomes.
- **Zero-Pluck Policy:** I understand that picking a trillium resets 10 years of growth.
- **Invasive Watch:** Did I see Garlic Mustard nearby? (Report to local conservation apps).
- **Photo-Only Souvenir:** I have captured the bloom digitally instead of physically.