



## cardinal flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants  
Class:  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

The cardinal flower has bright red, two-lipped flowers which may be up to two inches long. The upper lip has two lobes while the lower lip has three lobes. This plant is a perennial herb whose stems may grow to six feet tall. Stems are usually hairy and have milky sap. The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Leaves are lance-shaped, usually toothed and hairy. Leaves may be eight inches long and up to two and one-half inches wide. Fruits are spherical capsules that may be one-half inch wide. The tiny, warty seeds are yellow-brown.

### BEHAVIORS

The cardinal flower grows in marshes, wet meadows, wet prairies and along streams, ponds and lakes. It blooms from July through October.

### HABITATS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan                        | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands                            |   |

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common        | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered    | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> |                                     |

### ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.