



bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The bloodroot is a perennial plant that grows from a thick, underground stem. The stem has a distinctive, red sap. The leaf is found at the base of the plant. The leaf is lobed, smooth and up to three inches wide and three inches long. The white flower is borne on a stalk. Each flower may be one and one-half inches wide. The eight to 15 flower petals fall from the stalk after one day. The seeds are contained in a green capsule.

BEHAVIORS

The bloodroot may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant lives in rich, moist woods. It flowers from early March through May. The leaf is usually rolled inward around the flower stalk when the plant is blooming. The underground stem has been used as a medicine (to induce vomiting and empty the intestines) but is poisonous if taken in great quantities.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.