



green dragon

Arisaema dracontium

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

FEATURES

The green dragon is a perennial plant that grows from an underground corm. It does not have leaf-bearing stems. The one leaf present grows from the base and is divided into as many as 17 smooth leaflets. Flowers are clustered together at the base of a cylindrical column, called a spadix, which is extended into a tail-like yellowish appendage that may be seven inches long. The spadix is enveloped in a protective green sheath. Male and female flowers are sometimes on the same plant and sometimes on separate plants. No petals are present on the flower. The fruit is a red-orange berry. Berries are clustered in thick heads..

BEHAVIORS

The green dragon may be found statewide in Illinois growing in woods. It flowers from mid-April to late May.

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.