



## may-apple

*Podophyllum peltatum*

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

### FEATURES

The may-apple, or mandrake, is a perennial plant that grows from an underground stem. Its smooth, upright stem grows to about two feet tall. The two umbrella-like leaves have five to nine lobes. Each leaf may be 14 inches wide. The leaves are attached at the center to the stalk. The single, white flower has six to nine petals and grows from the place where the leaf stalks join the main stem. The fruit is an ovoid, yellow berry that may be two inches long.

### BEHAVIORS

The may-apple may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in woods. The may-apple flowers from late March to June. Its underground stem is poisonous, but the ripe fruit is edible.

### 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.