



squirrel corn

Dicentra canadensis

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

FEATURES

Squirrel corn, or turkey corn, is a perennial plant that grows from a yellow tuber that resembles a grain of corn. It does not have leaf-bearing stems. The leaves grow from the base of the plant and are very finely divided. Flowers are clustered at the tip of a stalk that may be 12 inches tall. The four, white or yellowish-white flower petals are arranged in two pairs with rounded spurs at their base. The flower may be two-thirds of an inch long and three-fourths of an inch wide. The fruit is an oblong to linear capsule, about one inch long. It splits down two sides to release several seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Squirrel corn may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Squirrel corn flowers from late March through mid-May. It contains a substance that is poisonous to cattle if they eat it.

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.