



sweet cicely

Osmorhiza claytoni

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

FEATURES

Sweet cicely, or wild licorice, is a perennial plant that grows from thick roots. Its upright, branched, hairy stems may be more than two feet tall. The compound leaves are divided three times and resemble fern fronds. Each leaf is toothed and hairy. Many tiny flowers are clustered at the tip of the stems. Each flower has five, white petals which curve at the tip. The fruit is elongated, narrow and hairy, about one-half inch long.

BEHAVIORS

Sweet cicely may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Sweet cicely flowers from mid-April through June. Its roots contain anise oil, and they, and the plant itself, smell of licorice when bruised.

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.