



wild ginger

Asarum canadense

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

FEATURES

Wild ginger is a perennial plant that grows from underground stems and fleshy roots. No above ground stems are present. There are usually two, oppositely arranged leaves. The leaf is heart-shaped, hairy, about six inches long and on a hairy stalk. The single flower arises from the leaf axil. There are no petals, but the three, maroon sepals appear petallike. The sepals are united at the base, and the outer tips usually point downward. The fruit is a spherical capsule, about one-third inch in diameter.

BEHAVIORS

Wild ginger may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Wild ginger flowers from April through May. When disturbed, its underground stem gives off the aroma of ginger

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.