



white baneberry

Actaea pachypoda

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

FEATURES

The white baneberry, or doll's-eyes, is a perennial plant that grows from an underground stem. The above ground stems are upright, branched and may be 24 inches tall. Leaves are present at the base of the plant and along the stem. The stem leaves are alternate in arrangement. These leaves are doubly compound with oval, toothed leaflets. Flowers are located in an oblong cluster at the tips of the stems. Each flower is about one-fourth inch wide and on a short stalk. Three to five tiny, white petals may usually be seen. The fruit is an oval, shiny, white berry on a red stem. Each berry has a purple dot at one end, giving the appearance of a toy doll's eye, and thus, one of the common names of this plant.

BEHAVIORS

The white baneberry may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in rich woods. Flowering occurs from April through June. The berries are poisonous.

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.