

bloodroot *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Papaveraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The bloodroot is a perennial plant that grows from a thick, underground stem. The stem has a distinctive, red sap. The leaf is found at the base of the plant. The leaf is lobed, smooth and up to three inches wide and three inches long. The white flower is borne on a stalk. Each flower may be one and one-half inches wide. The eight to 15 flower petals fall from the stalk after one day. The seeds are contained in a green capsule.

BEHAVIORS

The bloodroot may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant lives in rich, moist woods. It flowers from early March through May. The leaf is usually rolled inward around the flower stalk when the plant is blooming. The underground stem has been used as a medicine (to induce vomiting and empty the intestines) but is poisonous if taken in great quantities.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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