

doll's-eyes *Actaea pachypoda*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Doll's-eyes is a perennial plant that grows from an underground stem. The aboveground 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 tip of the stem. 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

Doll's-eyes may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in rich woods. Flowering occurs from April through June. The berries are poisonous.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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