

goldenseal *Hydrastis canadensis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Goldenseal is a perennial plant that grows from a thick root. The root has orange sap. Its hairy stem is upright and unbranched, growing to about 10 inches tall. There are three leaves. One leaf grows at the base of the plant. This toothed, hairy leaf has five to nine lobes and may be eight inches wide. Two, hairy leaves grow at the tip of the stem. Each of these leaves has three to nine lobes and may be six inches wide. The single flower arises from the base of the top leaf. This flower has no petals and is on a short stalk. Its white stamens give the flower its color. The fruit is a berry. Several berries are arranged in a cluster.

BEHAVIORS

Goldenseal may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in rich woods. This plant flowers from April through May.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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