

# green dragon

## *Arisaema dracontium*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Phylum: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Arales  
Family: Araceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

The green dragon is a perennial plant that grows from an underground corm. It does not have leaf-bearing stems. The one leaf present grows from the base and is divided into as many as 17 smooth leaflets. Flowers are clustered together at the base of a cylindrical column, called a spadix, that is extended into a taillike yellow appendage, up to seven inches long. The spadix is enveloped in a protective green sheath. Male and female flowers are sometimes on the same plant and sometimes on separate plants. No petals are present on the flower. The fruit is a red-orange berry. Berries are clustered in thick heads.

### BEHAVIORS

The green dragon may be found statewide in Illinois growing in woods. It flowers from mid-April to late May.



plant with flowers

### ILLINOIS RANGE



leaves



fruits



flowers in their sheath



leaf

**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none