

skunk cabbage *Symplocarpus foetidus*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Liliopsida

Order: Arales

Family: Araceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The skunk cabbage is a perennial herb. It has no stems. The smooth leaves, which may be up to two and one-half feet long and nearly one foot wide, are produced after flowering. The flowers are located close to the ground on a thickened structure that is surrounded by a purple to green sheath. The fruits are berries.

BEHAVIORS

The skunk cabbage grows in fens and other areas with springs. This plant flowers from March through May.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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