

white turtlehead *Chelone glabra*

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Scrophulariales

Family: Scrophulariaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The flowers are produced in a cluster at the stem tip. Petals are white and in a tubular shape with two divisions. The upper section overhangs the lower section and acts to protect it. The lower section is a landing area for insects. This arrangement is said to resemble a turtle's head. The plant may grow to two to three feet in height.

BEHAVIORS

White turtlehead grows in wet soil, bogs, fens and marshes. It is more commonly found in the northern half of the state than in the southern half. Flowers are produced from July through October. Many pollinators are attracted to the flowers.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

marshes; peatlands; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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