

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Uvularia grandiflora* – Bellwort**

COMMON NAME: Bellwort, Merrybells

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Uvularia grandiflora* – comes from Latin and refers to the way the flowers hang as in the human uvula and to the large flowers.

FLOWER: Lemon-yellow bell-shaped with slightly twisted petals.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late April to May lasting about two weeks.

SIZE: 8 to 20 inches

BEHAVIOR: First year seedlings have 2-3 tiny leaves and grow only a couple of inches high. Roots may be divided in early spring or in fall dormancy. Seeds are spread by ants.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry to medium woods and forests in full to part shade. Bellwort works well as a mass planting under shade trees or along wood margins.

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Manitoba, south to Georgia and Oklahoma, all of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The bell-shaped flowers tend to hang down as well as the leaves. The base of each leaf completely surrounds the stem.

SUGGESTED CARE: Cover in the winter with hardwood leaves, don't try to move very much. Bellwort is vulnerable to deer grazing.

COMPANION PLANTS: White baneberry, rattlesnake fern, and spring ephemerals such as spring beauty, blue cohosh, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica and wild geranium.