



***Sanquinaria canadensis* – Bloodroot**

COMMON NAME: Bloodroot

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sanguinaria canadensis* – the name refers to the blood colored sap in the stem.

FLOWER: White with several delicate petals

BLOOMING PERIOD: April. Bloodroot is one of the earliest woodland spring flowers.

SIZE: 6 – 9 inches

BEHAVIOR: Seems to spread easily from seeds. Spread by ants.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry to medium woods with good drainage.

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Manitoba and eastern United States west to the Dakotas, south to Texas. Found in all of Wisconsin except for the sand counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Each flower stalk emerges in early spring wrapped by one deeply scalloped grayish green leaf. As the flower blooms, the leaf unfurls. Flowers open in the sun but close at night and last only a couple of days. The sap is orange-red and contains a bitter tasting toxin. The seed dispersal is dependent upon ants eating the fleshy elaiosome (fleshy structures that are attached to seeds rich in lipids and proteins). Ants carry the seeds to their nests where the elaiosome is consumed, but not the actual seeds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Take care to avoid breaking off leaves, as this prevents photosynthetic production of energy for the plant. The leaves will disappear in mid to late summer.

COMPANION PLANTS: Spring ephemerals such as spring beauty, wild geranium, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches and maidenhair fern or wild leek.