



***Gentiana alba* – Cream Gentian**

COMMON NAME: Cream gentian, pale gentian, yellow gentian, white gentian

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Gentiana alba* - named for Gentius, king of Illyria who supposedly discovered that the roots from a certain plant helped to cure his troops suffering from malaria. *Alba* mean white (Latin).

FLOWER: Greenish or yellowish white.

BLOOMING PERIOD: August - September

SIZE: 2 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Stiff, upright stem with a tight cluster of flowers at the tip. Flowers are more open than bottle gentians and the blooms appear about 3 weeks earlier.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry to medium soil moisture with full sun to light shade. This gentian is often found where dolomite is near the surface.

NATURAL RANGE: Parts of north central U.S. from Pennsylvania to Minnesota and Nebraska, south to Oklahoma and Arkansas. In Wisconsin it is found in some southern, west-central and east-central counties. It is rare in south-central Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Bumblebees are the primary pollinators; they suck the nectar.

SUGGESTED CARE: Make sure there is adequate moisture. A yellowish appearance of the leaves is a common reaction to strong sunlight or dry weather, not necessarily indicating poor health. Propagation with young plants is much easier than trying to get seeds to germinate.

COMPANION PLANTS: Smooth aster, rattlesnake master, compass plant, big bluestem, shooting star, yellow coneflower, blazing star, black-eyed Susan, lead plant, rosin weed, elm-leaved goldenrod.