



***Hydrastis canadensis* – Goldenseal**

COMMON NAME: Goldenseal

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hydrastis Canadensis* – comes the Greek word *hydro* for water because the leaf is similar to that of waterleaf plants (*hydrophyllum*). The common name is a reference to the plant's thick, yellow rhizome.

FLOWER: White - a single flower about ½ inch across with no petals on an upright stem.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May

SIZE: 6 to 20 inches tall.

BEHAVIOR: There is usually a pair of leaves on the flower stalk. A clump of scarlet red berries develops after the flowering period. These are inedible.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sugar maple forests or places where there is moist, fertile, loamy soil. It must have dappled sunlight in early spring and light shade in summer. Can tolerate dense shade. It is also found in some forests with oak, poplar, basswood or walnut trees.

NATURAL RANGE: New England west to Minnesota, south to Georgia and Arkansas. In Wisconsin it is only in the southern third of the state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This is a very rare species in our maple woods and has been hunted almost to extinction because of its medicinal properties. An extract from the roots cures mouth ulcers and acts as a tonic. It is also considered a blood coagulant. Warning: All parts of goldenseal are poisonous in large doses.

SUGGESTED CARE: This is a rare plant so take good care of it.

COMPANION PLANTS: Trout lily, spring beauty, trillium, bloodroot, mayapple.