



***Arisaema dracontium* – Green dragon**

COMMON NAME: Green dragon, dragon root

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Arisaema dracontium* – the name comes from *aris* (Greek) for a kind of arum, *haema* for blood, and *dracontium* (Latin) because the leaves might resemble a dragon's claw.

FLOWER: Clusters of tiny, yellowish blossoms on a long flower stalk (spadix) that is surrounded by a modified leaf (spathe) like a hood. The spathe has a long whip-like extension beyond the flower stalk (spadix).

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to June

SIZE: 1 – 3 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: There is usually just one leaf divided into three parts and each of these again divided into three. This is an upright, usually solitary, plant. It takes several years of growth to produce flowers.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Best grown in medium-wet to wet, well-drained humus-rich soil. It needs constantly moist soil during the growing period and soil that is rich in organic matter. It does poorly in heavy clay soil. It should have part shade to full shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern and central United States. In Wisconsin it is mainly in southern wet forests. It is relatively rare.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flower part forms an upright cluster of red berries in mid to late summer when the plant goes dormant. This is similar to the Jack-in-the-pulpit plants.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plant in rich soil and keep moist throughout the growing season. Could be grouped with hostas if the ground is kept moist enough.

COMPANION PLANTS: Toothwort, wood phlox, wild ginger, wild geranium, starry Solomon's plume, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Sprengle's sedge.