

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale

***Arisaema triphyllum* - Jack-in-the-Pulpit**

COMMON NAME: Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Indian Turnip

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Arisaema triphyllum* – the name comes from a Greek word, *aris* for the plant's resemblance to the Arum family and *haema*, meaning blood because of red blotches on the flower. *Triphyllum* is from Latin for its 3 parted leaves.

FLOWER: The actual flowers are tiny and on a stalk (spadix) enclosed by a sheath (spathe) with a top curling over the stalk.

BLOOMING PERIOD: late April to June

SIZE: 1 to 3 feet

BEHAVIOR: Requires five or more years for a plant to mature to its first flowering. Self sows readily and young plants are easy to transplant all season. There are usually two leaves and each divides into 3 leaflets.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Medium to wet woods and forests with organic-rich soils. Needs part shade to full shade. This plant seems to tolerate being near black walnut trees.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern United States and Canada, extending as far west as Manitoba and south to Texas. It is found in all of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The common name derives from the way the flower stalk (Jack) is enclosed and covered by a sheath (Pulpit). This sheath (spathe) is often a green-purple with some reddish stripes on the inside. At first only male flowers appear, but after several years female flowers will also appear on the same stalk and a cluster of stunning scarlet berries is produced as the leaves wither in mid to late summer.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care. Leave leafy cover in place and the plant will emerge through it.

COMPANION PLANTS: spring beauty, wild ginger, Jacob's ladder, bloodroot, wild geranium, Mayapple, maidenhair fern, white baneberry, wild leek.